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11 SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
12 COUNCIL MEETING

13

14 Volume I

15

16 Caribou Inn

17 Glennallen, Alaska

18 March 18, 1998 - 9:00 a.m.

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22 MEMBERS PRESENT:

23

24 Roy Ewan, Chairman

25 Ralph Lohse, Vice Chairman

26 Fred John, Jr., Secretary

27 Gilbert Dementi, Sr.

28

29 Helga Eakon, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 10:10 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN EWAN: I will call the meeting to order. This is the meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I want to welcome everyone to the meeting. We'll have introductions after we have roll call. Helga.

MS. EAKON: Okay. Gilbert Dementi.

MR. DEMENTI: Here.

MS. EAKON: Don Kompkoff, Sr.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Ben Romig.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Roy Ewan.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: Here.

MS. EAKON: Gary Oskolkoff.

(No response)

MS. EAKON: Fred John, Jr.

MR. F. JOHN: Here.

MS. EAKON: Ralph Lohse.

MR. LOHSE: Here.

MS. EAKON: A quorum is established, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: It is my understanding that a couple of members are not going to make it and that Gary Oskolkoff is on the way.

MS. EAKON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN EWAN: We will first introduce the Council members. I'm Roy Ewan, I'm Chairman the Council. I'm from Gulkana for those of you from the local area probably know me. I worked for Ahtna many years.

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1 We'll start with Ralph and go down this way.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: I'm Ralph Lohse from Cordova and the
4 Chitina River Valley.

5

6 MR. DEMENTI: Gilbert Dementi from Cantwell.

7

8 MR. F. JOHN: Fred John, Jr., Mentasta.

9

10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. For the public, since I don't
11 know half of you who are here. I know many faces. I'll start
12 with Janis over here and just go around, maybe to the back, and
13 back forward. Just introduce yourselves.

14

15 MS. MELDRUM: I'm Janis Meldrum from the National Park
16 Service office in Anchorage.

17

18 MS. MEEHAN: Rosa Meehan with the Office of Subsistence
19 Management, Anchorage.

20

21 MR. PHILLIPS: Dan Phillips, Department of Fish and
22 Game, Cordova.

23

24 MR. GERHARD: I'm Bob Gerhard with the National Park
25 Service in Anchorage.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Let's go on in back.

28

29 MARTIN: Martin (indiscernible - away from microphone)
30 with National Park Service, Wrangell/St. Elias, Mentasta
31 District.

32

33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll come up here then. Go
34 ahead, introduce yourself.

35

36 MS. BROWN: Ginny Brown, local resident of Copper River
37 Valley.

38

39 MS. GENE: Virginia Gene from Gakona Village.

40

41 MR. SONDERGAURD: Mike Sondergaard, Bureau of Land
42 Management, Glennallen.

43

44 MR. TYONE: Lonnie Tyone from Gulkana Village.

45

46 MR. SELINGER: Jeff Selinger, Department of Fish and
47 Game here in Glennallen.

48

49 MR. TAUBE: Tom Taube with the Department of Fish and
50 Game here in Glennallen.

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Please go on all the way to the back
2 there. Gloria.

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan.

5
6 MS. DEWITT: Catherine Dewitt, Tazlina.

7
8 MR. SANDFERL: Ron Sandferl from Gakona.

9
10 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, Staff Committee member
11 for the BIA, Federal Board.

12
13 MR. MITCHELL: Carl Mitchell, Wildlife Biologist for
14 Wrangell/St. Elias National Park.

15
16 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg, I'm with the Federal Subsistence
17 Office in Anchorage.

18
19 MS. EAKON: Helga Eakon, Regional Council Coordinator.

20
21 MR. KOLASINSKI: And Joe Kolasinski, Computer Matrix,
22 Anchorage, Alaska, your court reporter for this meeting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you all and welcome to the
25 meeting. For those of you who have not attended one of these
26 meetings, if you want to make comments, be sure to sign in. Be
27 sure to sign in anyway, there's a sign-in sheet over here to my
28 right and the information also over there on the table
29 concerning issues that we're going to be discussing today.

30
31 We'll go on to adoption of the agenda and I'll
32 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

33
34 MR. DEMENTI: I make a motion to adopt the agenda.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion to adopt the agenda,
37 is there a second?

38
39 MR. LOHSE: Second it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is seconded. Further discussion
42 on the adoption of the agenda?

43
44 (No audible responses)

45
46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not -- yes, Ralph.

47
48 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chair, I find that the agenda is pretty
49 complete, but it's kind of abbreviated in places. Sometimes I
50 think that we lose a little bit of the -- in the process of

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1 making it nice and short and clear, we sometimes lose some of
2 the nuances in it, but it does pretty much cover what we said.
3 I was just thinking of a couple of comments that I made here
4 that I wasn't just wondering about something, it was wondering
5 about it in a general direction, like we were talking about the
6 wolves from the Fortymile going into the Kenai and I just
7 wondered how you.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Could we get to that when we get to the
10 minutes, the next item?

11
12 MR. LOHSE: Oh, I thought we were on the minutes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: No, agenda.

15
16 MR. LOHSE: Oh, my fault, Roy, I'm sorry.

17
18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

19
20 MR. LOHSE: Excuse me, I was not listening.

21
22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If there's not further discussion on
23 the adoption of the agenda, all in favor say aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Those opposed by the same sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. Now, Ralph.

32
33 MR. LOHSE: I move we adopt the minutes of October 7th
34 and 8th.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second? Is there a second
37 to the motion to adopt the minutes of October 7th.

38
39 MR. F. JOHN: Oh, second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. All the
42 information is in your packet, by the way, just go to Tab P.
43 Okay, now make your comments, Ralph. Sorry about the mixup
44 there.

45
46 MR. LOHSE: I was just saying that I think sometimes in
47 our effort to get it nice and short and concise we sometimes
48 lose some of the nuances that were intended. Nothing serious
49 by anyway, but sometimes, like, where it says that I wondered
50 about the sub-alpha, the immature and the non-pack members, how

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1 it's going to genetically influence. Basically the reason I
2 did is they can't influence the genetics in the Fortymile area,
3 how are they going to influence the genetics in the Kenai area?
4 Other than that I find nothing wrong with the.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you think there should be a little
7 more expansion on the comment.

8
9 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, a little bit more into, you know,
10 that it's not just -- sometimes not just a case of wondering or
11 making a comment on it, but what the idea behind the comment
12 is. I came across a couple other small ones, but.....

13
14 MS. EAKON: At the very beginning I was instructed by
15 this Regional Council to make the minute short and sweet.

16
17 MR. LOHSE: And you do.

18
19 MS. EAKON: Now, they're telling me to expand.

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: For the public, I just want you to know
22 we have minutes here that we're looking at. I don't know
23 whether you have copies of it, but this is what Mr. Lohse is
24 commenting about. But we do have verbatim minutes that we have
25 copies of also somewhere around here.

26
27 MR. LOHSE: Right.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That is what the Recorder here is
30 doing. Every word is recorded, you know, that can be heard,
31 for your information.

32
33 I want to introduce Tom Boyd that just walked in here,
34 he's the boss for the Federal Subsistence. I don't know
35 exactly what your title is, go ahead and introduce yourself,
36 Tom.

37
38 MR. BOYD: Yes, I'm Tom Boyd and I oversee the Office
39 of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Tom. Ralph.

42
43 MR. LOHSE: Back to what I was saying. That was not a
44 -- definitely not a complaint about it being short and sweet.
45 It was just that sometimes I think sometimes we could get a
46 little bit of the nuances in there but, you're right, Roy,
47 they're all down verbatim and they can all be looked at
48 someplace else and so I'll stand corrected on that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: But still, you know, I think they

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1 should contain your comments about -- if you feel you're being
2 misquoted or anything.

3

4 MR. LOHSE: Oh, no. No, it's not a case of being
5 misquoted at all.

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. We'll go on. Rachel, did you
8 have your hand up?

9

10 MS. MASON: No.

11

12 MS. EAKON: I just wanted to Rachel Mason.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, I'm sorry, Rachel. Go ahead and
15 introduce yourself, Rachel.

16

17 MS. MASON: I'm Rachel Mason, I was as an
18 anthropologist for this Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Welcome to the meeting, Rachel.
21 We still haven't adopted the minutes, so all in favor of
22 adopting the October 7th and 8th of 1997 minutes, say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

27

28 (No opposing responses)

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. We now have on our
31 agenda a time for comments from the public on Federal
32 Subsistence Management Program. And this opportunity will
33 continue throughout the meeting, so is there anyone that wants
34 to make comments on anything? Any subsistence management
35 issue?

36

37 (No audible responses)

38

39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, hearing none, then we'll just
40 continue on. But if you do want to make comments, sign up and
41 they'll give me your name and we'll call on you at that time.

42

43 We'll go on to Item number 7, Proposed Rule, Federal
44 subsistence fisheries management and I guess we'll go to the
45 overview. It was supposed to have been done by Taylor
46 Brelsford but it's going to be Rosa Meehan. Rosa.

47

48 MS. MEEHAN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Council. Rosa
49 Meehan of the Office of Subsistence Management. As some of you
50 were present at the public meeting last night at Copper Center

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1 and we had a chance to hear some very interesting and
2 compelling testimony that was -- it was a tremendous pleasure
3 for me to have been there and heard the testimony. And just
4 for the record I'd like to cover a few of the highlights.

5
6 We had some very compelling testimony by elders,
7 started out by Katie John. And we heard about the difficulty
8 that elders have in working with the system in dealing with
9 permits, in dealing with regulations that are difficult to
10 follow. The clear need for subsistence resources and very
11 clear from the heart testimony about how important resources
12 are and how important protecting resources are, with the
13 example being brought up, again, of thinking about the next
14 generation. And we had several examples brought forward about
15 how thinking about the next generation and then the next
16 generation would say, I'm glad my parents thought about me and
17 I'm thinking about my two daughters that I'm also teaching
18 about the subsistence lifestyle.

19
20 So it was a very fascinating meeting. We heard some
21 other very pointed testimony on specific parts of the Proposed
22 Rule and we will have transcripts of that meeting. But I did
23 want to share with the Council and with the audience some of
24 the highlights from the meeting.

25
26 As the Council has heard before, we talked about the
27 Proposed Rule for expanding the program into fisheries
28 management. I think this is the second or third time in front
29 of the Council we've discussed the issue and what you have in
30 your book under Tab Q is a summary that gives just a real brief
31 purpose and background. An important part of the summary page
32 is there's key provisions in the Proposed Rule that are changes
33 or additional material put into our existing regulations that
34 would expand the program into fisheries management. And at
35 this point in the process that's what we would like to focus
36 any discussion on.

37
38 In the past we've talked about how the Councils would
39 operate, we've talked a bit about the time schedule that would
40 potentially happen with this and just in general the structure
41 of the program. And just by way of catching everybody up on
42 background, one of the questions we've dealt with in the past
43 has been whether we need additional Councils to handle
44 fisheries issues and with the Council there was a very
45 tentative, kind of, well, I guess we could pick up fisheries as
46 well. And as I recall, Ralph, you were one of the people that
47 was saying, fish are going to be tough. So a lot of work
48 involved, but the general feeling of the Council was that this
49 Council could also take on fishery issues, recognizing that
50 it's going to be difficult.

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1 Another issue we talked about were boundaries and would
2 the boundaries of the Regional Council need to be changed to
3 deal with fisheries? And again that was one where, generally,
4 the current boundaries were felt to be acceptable, could work
5 within those.

6
7 Another issue that we've talked about has been a time
8 line, and that's one that I want to dwell on just a little bit
9 because we got, perhaps, a better fix on the time line, and
10 this also gives us a picture of where we're at in the process.
11 As you know, subsistence is currently being discussed and is
12 headlines in the - from what the Legislature is doing and so
13 there's things that are up in the air and they're certainly out
14 of our hands at this point in time. But basically the
15 Legislature has in front of them a possibility to act, to come
16 into compliance with Federal law. If that happens, then the
17 whole program will be transferred back to the State. We don't
18 know how that's going to come out.

19
20 The other thing that has been affecting implementation
21 of expansion into Federal management have been congressional
22 moratoriums in our budget, and basically we've had Congress
23 saying, no, do not spend any money on implementing this
24 program. And so we've been unable to do that. We don't know
25 if another moratorium will be put in place or not and that's
26 something -- we just won't know that until October.

27
28 If the State does not act then the program is prepared
29 to implement the expansion into fisheries management on or
30 shortly after December 1st. If that happens then this rule
31 that you have in front of you will be published as a Final
32 Rule, that implements the program. What we anticipate is that
33 that would basically start the process of setting up a
34 regulatory year and we would look to having a Council -- what
35 you, as a Council, would do is would be meet sometime in late
36 winter, so in the February, March kind of area, to look at
37 proposal to change regulations. The same way we do the fall
38 meeting to look at game regulations. So that's when you'd look
39 at proposals.

40
41 We would take those back, do the analyses in the office
42 over the summer and then sometime in the late fall we would
43 have a meeting to review the analyses and make recommendations
44 on those proposed changes. Those recommendations would then go
45 to the Federal Board who would then made decisions about the
46 proposed changes. This means that under this program any
47 changes to the regulations would not be put into place until
48 the year 2000, fishing season of the year 2000. The timing of
49 the, in general, we had talked about before in the sense of
50 structuring the fisheries regulatory cycle so that it is

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1 compatible with the fishing season. So it's just about flipped
2 180 from the game regulatory cycle.

3

4 So that's kind of an overview and it kind of puts us in
5 place in terms of where we are in the program.

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Can I ask a question right there about
8 the.....

9

10 MS. MEEHAN: Sure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If you, the Federal government, takes
13 over, you were talking about how you were going to propose
14 changes and so on and then at year 2000 there could be some
15 changes, but in the meantime are you going to operate under the
16 -- how are you going to operate?

17

18 MR. BOYD: What we've done in this Proposed Rule is
19 essentially adopted the State of Alaska Department of Fish and
20 Game subsistence fishing regulations as a starting place. I
21 think that's an important point, it is a place to start. We
22 don't have, I think, the wherewithal to go statewide and
23 totally revamp or reevaluate this, but I think the key here is
24 that we would put into place a process, similar to what we're
25 going through with wildlife or game.

26

27 And our key point here is we can't really implement
28 this until Congress gives us the green light, and right now
29 they're saying you can't do it until after December 1, 1998.
30 We don't have funding, I don't have technical staff on board
31 and I won't have it until after December 1 and we don't even
32 know when. So what we're doing is laying out a process here to
33 get this going.

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Right.

36

37 MR. BOYD: We are asking, through, for public comment
38 right now on these regs, and I understand, and I haven't seen
39 the details, that we got quite a bit last night in Copper
40 Center. It's possible that some of these regs may be changed
41 before they become final. We would take those back and
42 reevaluate them and publish a Final -- based on the public
43 input that we receive, we could -- it's very feasible that some
44 of those changes could go in before the rule becomes final.

45

46 I'm not sure I'm answering your question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: You did answer my question. I'm just
49 wondering, it seems like there was -- the Federal government
50 would take over from the State, you said next October?

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1 MS. MEEHAN: It would start on or shortly after
2 December 1st.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, okay.

5
6 MS. MEEHAN:is when it would happen. But the
7 regulatory cycle would start that next year.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, the process for changes will start
10 in October, okay.

11
12 MR. BOYD: If all of that transpires, I would
13 anticipate that we would go out with a call for proposals --
14 I'm trying to think of how this regulatory cycle -- sometime in
15 early '99. And then simultaneously we would be trying to
16 establish -- all the agencies, but we would be establishing the
17 requisite staff to evaluate those proposals and go through a
18 similar process with what you're doing now. And it would take
19 us a full cycle.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Can I ask another question? Maybe you
22 did answer, in a way, but there is a possibility for some
23 changes, right, in the interim period there?

24
25 MS. MEEHAN: Absolutely, yeah.

26
27 MR. BOYD: Yes, there is, based on public input we get
28 right now.

29
30 MS. MEEHAN: Go ahead.

31
32 MS. MEEHAN: To reiterate something Tom said. I think
33 it's important to recognize that we are starting with the State
34 rules, and part of the reason for that is to make the
35 transition as easy and non-complicated as possible for the
36 people out there trying to do the right thing. And so by
37 having the State regulations and the Federal regulations match
38 we've got a good starting point. And we're starting from, you
39 know, a place where we all understand the rules in general.
40 And so it helps everybody kind of work into this.

41
42 The next part that I was going to move into is to point
43 out some of the key provisions, and these are the real
44 highlights within the rule that would implement the program.
45 There is a section that identifies the water affected by the
46 new regulations. And we do have, make sure they're here, maps
47 up that will help point out where these areas are. We've got
48 State maps that we have set out somewhere, or if they're not
49 out we'll put them out, that identify the specific drainages
50 that would be included in program. For this area it's easy to

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1 see on the map that's put up over here behind Janis, and
2 basically it's all the waters that are within the outside
3 boundary of a Conservation Unit would be included within the
4 program. A local example is the Copper River would be included
5 within the area because it forms the boundary of Wrangell/St.
6 Elias.

7
8 The small differences on Forest Service lands, which
9 are the green lands, that on Forest Service lands waters are
10 included that physically adjacent to a piece of Forest Service
11 managed land. And so, in other words, along the river, on one
12 bank or the other, you'd have to be standing on land managed by
13 the Forest Service for that water to be included. So it's a
14 difference between the two. I would note, you can see it on
15 the map over there, that the Forest Service does not have the
16 extensive allotments or corporations lands within the
17 boundaries that we do on Department of Interior lands, and so
18 that's the reason for the difference.

19
20 Another thing that is addressed within this Proposed
21 Rule is the inclusion of selected but not conveyed lands within
22 the program. For instance, with a Native allotment, if the
23 allotment has been transferred and the title certificated to
24 the owner of the allotment, then that allotment would not be
25 included in the program. Similarly with corporation lands, if
26 there's still a question about whether it's actually been
27 conveyed, it's included. But once it's finally conveyed and
28 the final selections have been made that land is not included
29 in the program, but the waters are as long as they're within
30 the boundary of a Conservation Unit.

31
32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I have a question.

33
34 MS. MEEHAN: Sure.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: What about State selected land?

37
38 MS. MEEHAN: It's the same thing.

39
40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Same thing?

41
42 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, same thing, if it's been conveyed
43 and the State says, okay, final deal, we're going to take this
44 piece of land and no other, it's not in the program. But if
45 it's -- the issue tends to be out in Western Alaska where
46 there's a lot of overselected lands and those are the lands
47 that are specifically being targeted, where the final
48 disposition of the lands is a little bit up in the air, they
49 may revert back to the Federal government, therefore, they're
50 included within the program. And again, that's the reason for

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1 it.

2

3

4 One of the issues that that has come up in the course
5 of preparing this Proposed Rule has to do with the extension of
6 Federal authority off of Federal land, and this is referred to
7 as extraterritorial jurisdiction or I've also heard
8 extraliminal jurisdiction, and the idea behind that is that the
9 Federal government does have the authority and has had the
10 authority to protect lands and waters, Federal lands and
11 waters, from activities that take place off of Federal lands.

12

13 So specific to this program, if there's an activity
14 that's taking place off of Federal lands that is affecting the
15 ability for successful subsistence use on the Federal lands,
16 the Federal government has the authority to stop that activity.
17 And to give you an example specific to fish, if you got a creek
18 that's flowing across Federal land onto State land and it's got
19 salmon swimming up it and somebody puts a net across the creek
20 and stops all the salmon from getting up on to the Federal land
21 so people cannot subsistence fish up there, the Federal
22 government has the authority to go and tell that person to take
23 the net out of the creek. So it's that type of an idea.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That brings up a question, too.
26 There's a lot of other creeks and rivers running in from the
27 other side of the Copper River.

28

29 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum.

30

31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are you speaking about those, too?
32 Affecting those?

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: Is a.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: You know, coming from.....

37

38 MS. MEEHAN: It probably -- if there was.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you understand what I'm saying?

41

42 MS. MEEHAN: I understand what you're saying. That
43 brings up one of the complexities of it because the idea of the
44 extraterritorial jurisdiction is that there has to be a really
45 clear relationship -- a clear cause and effect between an
46 action happening here affecting the Federal ability over here
47 -- the subsistence ability over here. And that case has to be
48 really clearly made. And so it's very much a situation
49 dependent issue.

50

The one example I could think of, just to make sure I'm

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1 understanding what you're say is, if you got a spawning area
2 that's up river and it's off of Federal lands, if somebody goes
3 in and has a plan to completely destroy that spawning area.
4 Well, that would cause a clear problem if there's people on
5 Federal land depending on that run of fish that go up there to
6 spawn. Okay? That's the type of relationship that we'd need
7 to look for. And I will confess I'm A) not a fisheries
8 biologist; and B) kind of trying to make my best guess on it.
9 But that's the sort of thing that would need to be looked at.

10
11 And the other thing that I want to make clear about
12 this type of authority is that it is one that the Federal
13 government has had and has exercised extremely sparingly. And
14 it's something like maybe seven or eight times in the last
15 hundred years. It's a very unusual authority to use and it's
16 retained by the Secretaries, it is not being passed down to the
17 Federal Board. So if there is a situation that is causing
18 concern, in general, the process would be to raise the issue to
19 the Board, there would be an evaluation done and a
20 recommendation made to the Secretary, but that is a decision
21 that would be made in Washington, D.C. Not an easy one.,

22
23 Are there any other questions on that?

24
25 (No audible responses)

26
27 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Another important provision has to
28 do with customary and traditional use determinations. Again
29 those are adopted largely from the State regulations and those
30 are ones to check and make sure they're appropriate for this
31 area.

32
33 MR. BOYD: Those were adopted from the pre-1990 State
34 regulations.

35
36 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. Had to go back in time to when the
37 State had made determinations that were consistent with Federal
38 law and so, go back in history.

39
40 MR. BOYD: Pre-McDowell.

41
42 MS. MEEHAN: Pre-McDowell. A provision that we
43 specifically have been looking for comments on is that the
44 intent of the Federal program is to acknowledge customary
45 trade. And this the kicker phrase, so long as it does not
46 constitute a significant commercial enterprise. And this is
47 one where it's important to look at the specific language in
48 the regulation, and it's on page 238. I mean all of these are
49 66 and then look for 238. The page numbers are up on the top
50 corners.

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1 The text that has been changed does have a line beside
2 it that says, new or modified text. Keep going, Roy, it's
3 another page or two. There it is, I think.

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I got it.

6
7 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. The intent of this regulation is to
8 recognize that there are small amounts of fish that are sold.
9 If somebody is fortunate and has an abundant harvest, they may
10 sell some of the extra fish or fish strips or whatever.
11 Generally the practice is within families or within close
12 associations. It's not meant as a commercial enterprise but
13 it's just if somebody has a little abundance or alternatively
14 if somebody does not have the opportunity to go out and fish,
15 due to age or some other restriction, that they could purchase
16 some fish for their own use. That's the kind of practice that
17 happens now, it happens, perhaps, more frequently up along the
18 Yukon is where we really hear about this, but it is an ongoing
19 practice and the intent of the program is to recognize it.

20
21 Now the catch in it is that while the intent is to
22 recognize existing practices, the intent is not to allow a
23 loophole, if you will, to start up new commercial enterprises.
24 And so that's the language, as long as it does not constitute a
25 significant commercial enterprise. And that's the language
26 that's under Section XI.

27
28 Under XII, where we're trying to put the catch in this,
29 is we've got language in here that's down in the second
30 sentence, that persons licensed by the State of Alaska to
31 engage in a fisheries business may not receive for resale or
32 barter subsistence taken fish or their parts or their eggs.
33 And so the idea is -- what we were trying to catch with this is
34 the notion that fish strips or, you know, the extra fish, would
35 be sold to someone who is going to then use it themselves. But
36 not to resale it -- not have this subsistence caught fish sold
37 to a processor or sold to someone who is then going to take it
38 into town and then, you know, you'd see it in Carrs. That's
39 what we don't want to see happen. That's getting into a
40 commercial business.

41
42 So the idea is to recognize that this occurs, provide
43 for it within regulation, but not allow a loophole. And one of
44 the discussions that we got into last night at the public
45 hearing had to do with a discussion of barter which is trading
46 good and/or services, so trading -- and an example, I think,
47 Fred, you had this, was trading fish for ducks with people up
48 north that get ducks that are good to eat and you guys get a
49 lot of fish and that you would trade with your friends or
50 relatives. That type of exchange is legal under State

00016

1 regulations. If there's no cash involved that's legal, that's
2 not what we're taking about. But what we are talking about is
3 when there's cash involved in the transaction.

4
5 Fred.

6
7 MR. F. JOHN: So -- you told me this, but I just want
8 to bring it out, that selling of salmon strip, is it legal
9 right now?

10
11 MS. MEEHAN: Right now it is illegal. If a transaction
12 involves cash, it's currently not recognized under State law.
13 And that's the big change that we're trying to do here. And
14 the reason I point out this text is we want to make sure that
15 the way this is written, and this is regulatory words, but we
16 want to make sure that current practices are recognized, you
17 know, and that they're recognized in a fashion that works, but
18 that cannot be exploited, so that's the intent.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I want to qualify this. If I wanted to
21 use myself, for my own use, I can buy some fish from Fred, if
22 he's.....

23
24 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. By this regulation, yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: But you just said, cannot sell salmon
27 strips or whatever.

28
29 MS. MEEHAN: Right now, under State regulations, it's
30 not a recognized practice.

31
32 MR. BOYD: It's prohibited under State regulations to
33 sell subsistence taken fish right now.

34
35 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

38
39 MS. MEEHAN: But, again, that's the change that's
40 proposed here.

41
42 MR. BOYD: I think it's recognized that it goes on.
43 I'm going to tell you on the books, though, it's prohibited.

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

46
47 MS. MEEHAN: The final point that's in here is that,
48 again, as we've mentioned that these regulations basically
49 adopt the State seasons, harvest limits and methods and means,
50 and those are listed in here down -- I found this.....

00017

1 MR. BOYD: 236.

2

3 MS. MEEHAN: 236 is where it starts and those are the
4 Subpart D part of the regulations. What I was looking for is a
5 specific page for this area.

6

7 One of the gear questions that we had last night -- we
8 got into a discussion of dipnetting and that is a method and
9 mean that's listed as appropriate under subsistence
10 regulations. We also list use of rod and reel as a subsistence
11 -- as appropriate for subsistence use, or it's recognized as a
12 subsistence methods and mean. Page 243 has where Prince
13 William Sound area starts up.

14

15 And another issue that we heard about last night at the
16 public hearing had to do with fishwheels on the Copper River
17 and there's concern that under State regulations the fishwheels
18 are limited to the north side of the bridge or the up river
19 side of the bridge and they're prohibited down river. And so
20 there's concern about that and we heard a fair bit of
21 discussion. So we did receive good comments on that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you have a question?

24

25 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I was just wondering why they said
26 rod and reel instead of hook and line because a lot of people,
27 you know, a lot of people use hook and line and not rod and
28 reel and the hook and line covers rod and reel, but rod and
29 reel doesn't cover hook and line. And hook and line would be a
30 lot more traditional than rod and reel.

31

32 MS. MEEHAN: I wonder if jigging.....

33

34 MR. BOYD: Obviously the use of rod and reel for
35 subsistence fishing has been prohibited under State regulations
36 and this question was brought before the Federal Subsistence
37 Board early in the program, early '90s, and the Board passed a
38 regulation permitting rod and reel use for subsistence fishing.
39 And that's the language that was captured at the time, but I'm
40 hearing you, Ralph, saying that it ought to be broadened to
41 include hook and line, so that's a comment that I think we're
42 going to evaluate.

43

44 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, because I know, like, up here in this
45 area, a lot of people when they fish burbot do not use rod and
46 reel, they use hook and line for burbot, a lot of people down
47 in our area use a hand line and a hook for halibut.

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: Fortunately we won't get into halibut.

50

00018

1 MR. LOHSE: No. But what I mean is.....

2
3 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, I understand.

4
5 MR. LOHSE: What I'm saying is that from a subsistence
6 standpoint a lot times -- I mean hook and line would cover rod
7 and reel.

8
9 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

10
11 MR. LOHSE: But rod and reel doesn't cover hook and
12 line.

13
14 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum. Roy, this pretty much winds up
15 the information that I wanted to make sure I shared with the
16 Council and to solicit comments that you or others on the
17 Council may have on this.

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Thank you. That's it on that
20 then, huh?

21
22 MS. MEEHAN: I'll close by saying that we do have set
23 out, I believe they're colored green, they're sheets that if
24 you or anybody else would like to provide us with written
25 comments later on or if you'd like to share these with others,
26 we do have sheets available for people to write their comments
27 and they already have the postage on the, so all you have to do
28 is fold them in half and staple them and send them in. We do
29 need to receive written comments by April 20th. So we're still
30 quite open to comments.

31
32 MR. BOYD: The public comment period is open through
33 April 20th. I'm very sure that this is going to be back in
34 front of the Council in the fall. I'm not sure at what stage
35 we will be in with regard to preparation of final regulations
36 at that time, it's hard to say but, you know, under Section 805
37 in ANILCA the Councils have the opportunity to provide input
38 anytime they're in session on these issues.

39
40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Thank you very much. Do you
41 have something?

42
43 MR. LOHSE: No.

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I would like to go back to public
46 comment, open it up for those that want to make comments. We
47 have three people that signed up.

48
49 Helga.

50

00019

1 MS. EAKON: Bob Gerhard and I were going to do a brief
2 summary of what happened at the other public hearings in this
3 region.

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Right now?

6
7 MS. EAKON: Um-hum, we can do it real fast.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

10
11 MS. EAKON: There were no public testifiers at the
12 Soldotna hearing, there were four people who came but they just
13 questioned the public hearing officer off record. At the
14 Seward public hearing there was one testifier and that was Bill
15 Stockwell who is a member of the Cooper Landing Local Advisory
16 Committee. And his opinion was that dual system will overtax
17 the system, he recommends that the Federal and State
18 governments work more closely together.

19
20 At the Cordova hearing there was six testifiers, the
21 first one was George Covell who is the former Chair of the Local
22 Advisory Committee and he stated that "our experience with the
23 Federal process has been woefully inadequate. The Advisory
24 Committees need to be fully integrated into the process." He's
25 concerned about provision for customary trade, barter or sale
26 of subsistence uses.

27
28 Sheri Shaw representing the Cordova District Fishermen
29 United said that -- she asked will there be a dollar value
30 attached to barter and trade of harvested resources? And she
31 said there's going to be confusion over Federal and State
32 jurisdiction.

33
34 Victor Jones, a local resident, said that sale of
35 subsistence caught fish for customary trade and barter is
36 commercial in nature. He thinks it's commercial fishing and
37 should not be allowed. And he is of the opinion that the
38 Regional Advisory Council members should be elected and not
39 appointed.

40
41 Tom Carpenter, who is Chair of the Local Advisory
42 Committee, has very deep concerns about the definition of
43 customary barter and trade and rural. He said these
44 definitions are nonexistent and that vague statements need to
45 be made specific. He thinks that the Regional Council system
46 needs more representation. He thinks that a committee of local
47 residents should be formed for the Copper River drainage that
48 is similar to the one which is established for the Yukon River.

49
50 Mark McHoes said he was concerned because he thinks --

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1 he said that there's no mention of the Copper River in the
2 proposed regulations. And finally James Beckman said that
3 there should be more representation of locals in the Federal
4 system.

5
6 And that's the end of the Cordova comments.
7

8 MR. GERHARD: And I thank you. I'm Bob Gerhard of the
9 National Park Service. I guess that just leaves one more
10 meeting, the hearing that was held in Anchorage last Thursday.
11 That meeting was also fairly sparsely attended, there were only
12 about eight people total, I think three people from the general
13 public and only two people testified. One person spoke that
14 said that the Federal program did not take into account
15 projections for future harvests and that we should have done
16 that. Also said that subsistence -- that we did not take into
17 account a cost benefit analysis of a Federal Subsistence
18 Program and also complained that there was not enough publicity
19 surrounding these meetings.
20

21 A second individual talked at some length about Native
22 rights and questioned the validity of Native Claims Settlement
23 Act and ANILCA but did not talk specifically about the
24 fisheries issue.
25

26 That meeting had been advertized by press releases in
27 all the local media and also paid advertisements in the
28 Anchorage Daily News and there was one member of the press, a
29 reporter from a radio station that did attend.
30

31 So that's pretty much a summary of that meeting. And
32 I'll just add a couple of more words to what Rosa said about
33 the meeting last night. That was very well attended, we
34 estimated there were between 40 and 50 people that came and
35 almost of those people stayed, I think, past 10:00 p.m. and we
36 heard from many, many folks, so that was a very good meeting.
37

38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you.
39

40 MR. GERHARD: Thank you.
41

42 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, now we'll go on to the public
43 comments for those that signed up. We have Catherine Dewitt,
44 where are you?
45

46 (Pause)
47

48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Just state your name, for the record,
49 and who you're representing of if you're just representing
50 yourself.

00021

1 MS. DEWITT: Cathy Dewitt from Tazlina. I just like to
2 speak on behalf of our people that subsistence is a way of our
3 life and it's our culture and we pass it down from generation
4 to generation. And I don't agree with the way the people at
5 Fish and Game bother and harass the elders. But this is our
6 way of life, we don't sell our food and it's a part of us and
7 we use that fish and bear for our own living. It's the black
8 bear, we use that for skin, they make bed out of it and we
9 never bother bear unless our -- we don't -- it injii to talk
10 about them things and we don't -- I see people go hunt down
11 Denali Road, they see people just bother those bears for
12 nothing, they whistle at it and those things just come out and
13 us we don't use it. We use this bears for congonuts (ph), you
14 know, Indian necklace and stuff like that, jewelry, earrings
15 and I don't really know much about that bear.

16
17 But the -- it's injii to talk about that bear, they
18 know. In our traditional way it's like, they say they know,
19 they hear you and they know you talk about them, so we don't
20 talk much about our -- our Indian laws is very injii, like, to
21 us, it's like against the law and we're not supposed to talk
22 about things like that. But they do use if for dogs, dog food
23 and use the fur for material things. That's how they used to
24 make their things from -- like spears, knives, skins and
25 mukluks, bed. They use if for things like that and the fat for
26 our Indian candy, you call that taluk (ph), ice cream or
27 whatever, but it used to be our candy, we call it candy in our
28 days.

29
30 And it was hunted during certain seasons and the
31 winters it was in their dens. We have certain times to hunt
32 the bears and we use the gallbladders for medicine. All these
33 are all traditions from a long time ago. Everything we use, we
34 don't waste all this, all this subsistence stuff, we use if for
35 our health, we use it for our families and it's a part of --
36 and we don't waste it. It's a part of our life and we pass it
37 on to our kids because we've been brought up on the land and we
38 pass it on to our own kids, our own kids learn how to cut fish,
39 make strips. And the bears, we teach them how we make bed out
40 of them and where people just hunt for it and make head pieces,
41 whatever, out of it. Us Natives do use it for our -- it's our
42 tradition, we use it for our own use, not to -- just for looks
43 and just to go shoot them and just go. And some people used to
44 eat that meat, not all of use, we never -- some Natives eat
45 that bear meat, but we all don't eat that. We use it for
46 things, material things.

47
48 That's all.

49
50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Cathy. for those that have

00022

1 not signed up and want to comment, there's some sheets over
2 there to sign up on and sign up -- is there anybody here that
3 we did not introduce? I see Frank. Introduce yourself, Frank.

4
5 MR. ENTSMINGER: I'm Frank Entsminger, I'll be
6 representing Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee. And
7 also one proposal I'm just representing myself (indiscernible -
8 phone rings) member.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Frank. We have Pete Ewan
11 over here from Copper Center and Dan.

12
13 MR. ROSENKRAN: I'm Danny Rosenkran (indiscernible -
14 away from microphone) Resources, Wrangell/St. Elias.

15
16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Anybody else?

17
18 (No audible responses)

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, we'll go to the next person to
21 testify, Lonnie Tyone.

22
23 MR. TYONE: Good morning. My name is Lonnie Tyone from
24 Gulkana Village. I've lived there most of all of my life and
25 it kind of gets me excited to be here in meetings like this
26 here, gets my adrenaline pumping and my heart beating and it's
27 -- but I'd like to say, you know, I heard some good report on
28 the decision that the Council makes and they get about 90
29 percent of their proposals through and it goes through every
30 time and I thought that was really good.

31
32 And the thing that I'm going to be testifying is --
33 well, I want to share some of my personal views and along with
34 some comments. And on Proposals 22, 32 and 96, concerning
35 brown bear. I like what Cathy said there, you know, that the
36 Indians believe that, you know, you're not supposed to talk
37 about these kind of animals, you know, cause they hear you.
38 And I hope he doesn't hear me.

39
40 But I seen a picture, I don't know when this was, maybe
41 about a month ago, and it was a little lady about yea big and
42 she was holding this big brown bear's neck, about like -- I
43 mean really big. Well, anyway, she's got the biggest brown
44 bear in the state now. She has the record and she's from here
45 in Glennallen. And I just thought I'd bring that up. And it
46 got me wondering, you know, how -- about the -- I do know that
47 the people -- you know, I represent the Native people, you
48 know. The ones that really don't know I try to bring back to
49 the village as much as I can understand what I'm learning from
50 these kinds of meetings here. And sometimes it's really hard

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1 to communicate something that is confusing to people that are
2 already confused. And it's just almost -- sometimes I want to
3 bang my head against a wall, you know, but that's -- it's
4 really difficult to do that.

5
6 But this issue of this subsistence deal is mind
7 boggling to the point where sometimes I wonder does anybody
8 really know what's going on or is there a solution to all this
9 problems we have with the subsistence. But the Ahtna people,
10 you know have historically hunted and used brown bear down
11 through the years and there's very few people that still, you
12 know, hunt brown bear. And I'm sure that the ones that I'm
13 speaking for right now really aren't there, but they probably
14 would want me to testify on their behalf, and that's what I'm
15 doing here.

16
17 And because of the regulation requirements that Ahtna
18 people do not like to report taking brown bear. Brown bear
19 were hunted most of the year, summer, fall and winter season
20 when the meat tastes good because the brown bear ate berries
21 and ground squirrel. It was killed with spears and bows and
22 arrows and knives and snares, you know, and I looked at that
23 and I said, knives, man, I wouldn't want to go try to go after
24 one with a knife, but I guess there's people that have, you
25 know, were big enough to do that. And I'm not that -- I may be
26 big, but I don't think I'd like to go after one with one. I'd
27 rather have something like maybe a 30.06 or something a little
28 bigger than that. And a good distance.

29
30 But it was also hunted during the spring season, you
31 know, with spears and, you know, whatever. And the bear was
32 hunted in the hills where the dens were located. You know, I'm
33 not very good at -- you know, this little lady that had this
34 big brown bear sure is brave, unless somebody got it for her
35 and then she had the picture taken, but she's really brave.
36 But I wondered what they did with the meat and everything else.
37 The meat from the brown bear was used to put in caches for the
38 winter, for winter use. The head and stomach and the bones,
39 you know, they were not eaten, but they were burned or buried.
40 The hood was boiled and eaten, the fat was used for cooking and
41 for candle light. The fur was made into clothing, jewelry and
42 -- jewelry, you know, Cathy here, the lady that was before me,
43 said congouuts (ph), I think that the pronunciation for the
44 Indian language, mukluks and mats. The guts were washed and
45 used for widows in the homes. The gallbladder was used for
46 medicine, the contents were dripped into the mouth and the eyes
47 for sickness. The claws and the teeth were made into jewelry.

48
49 The Ahtna people did not talk about the brown bear
50 while it was sleeping, this was considered a taboo. Taboo, we

00024

1 call that, what she said was injii, you know, we call that.
2 The brown bear is respected animal by the Ahtna people. Today
3 Ahtna Heritage Foundation holds a summer camp to teach and pass
4 on the customs and the traditions of the Ahtna people. The
5 elders speak to the younger generation about the traditional
6 life of the Ahtna people, and that's what they do, they tell me
7 that. I've heard all kinds of stories since I've been back
8 here.

9
10 And that's my public testimony on that, though, but
11 later on I might want to ask questions as the time goes on. I
12 don't want to really take up too much time because -- and
13 that's all I have. I'd like to thank you all for listening to
14 me and if you have any questions for me, I'll try to answer
15 something. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any questions?

18
19 (No audible responses)

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, thank you. Lonnie.

22
23 MR. TYONE: Um-hum.

24
25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I just want to comment you know the
26 Council has been trying to go different communities, we have
27 had meetings in other communities and this is very good for the
28 Federal subsistence staff and also for the Council to be able
29 to go to different communities and I like the part for
30 providing the opportunity for people like Lonnie and others to
31 testify on subsistence issues, so I think that's very, very
32 good that we're -- I'm happy that we're out here, this is the
33 area that I come from, grew up in this area.

34
35 Next person is Gloria Stickwan.

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to state, too, that people
38 still use brown bear and black bear, but they don't report it
39 because they're afraid of the, you know, the regulations and
40 they don't talk about it, so it hasn't been reported by Fish
41 and Game. That doesn't necessarily mean that it isn't still
42 being used today.

43
44 I want to talk about all the proposals, tell you the
45 proposals that CRNA supports. We support Proposal 21, the one
46 having to do with Unit 11, black bear. We want to adopt that
47 with a modification to include all rural residents of Unit 11.

48
49 Proposal 22, Unit 11 brown bear. We want to adopt that
50 with a modification of all rural residents of Unit 11.

00025

1 Proposal 27, we want to adopt that with the
2 modification season date of August 25th through December 31.

3
4 And we want to adopt Proposal 28, Unit 11 sheep.

5
6 Proposal 30, Unit 11, Unit 13 all black bear. We want
7 to adopt that with modification to include all rural residents
8 of Unit 13.

9
10 Proposal 32, Unit 13 brown bear, adopt that with all
11 modifications to all rural residents of Unit 13.

12
13 Proposal 36, want to add a caribou season date of
14 October 21 to March 31.

15
16 Proposal 35, Unit 12, we want to adopt that with
17 modification to add all rural residents of Unit 12.

18
19 Proposal 96, Unit 12 brown bear, adopt that with
20 modification to add all rural residents of Unit 12.

21
22 Proposal 99, to add Healy Lake for Unit 12 caribou for
23 c&t.

24
25 Proposal 100, add Healy Lake sheep for c&t.

26
27 And Proposal 101, Unit 12, add Healy Lake.

28
29 We reject Proposal 26, Unit 11 goat; Proposal 31 is
30 rejected, Unit 13 black bear, add residents Mile-post 216-309.
31 We included -- that has been because of our proposal of
32 adopting - because we adopted Unit 13 that included Mile-post
33 216 and 309 to our proposal up ahead, it wasn't include so
34 that's not leaving that mile-post out.

35
36 We reject Proposal 34, Healy Lake wanted to use Unit
37 13(B) and (C) to get c&t for that area. That would cover our
38 area, 13(B) and (C) is traditionally used by Ahtna, it's our
39 territory and we don't think they have customary and
40 traditional use in our territory historically, but I would
41 think it would be okay if they used the northern portion of it,
42 because it borders our line, but not our whole area.

43
44 Proposal 35, we reject that, to add resident of Unit
45 20(D).

46
47 Proposal 37, that's to add Healy lake for moose, we
48 reject that because they want to get Unit 13(C) traditional
49 use, we don't agree with that, because this is our Ahtna
50 territory. They may have used it historically because they

00026

1 were married into our families, but it's not their traditional
2 territories, it's ours.

3

4 We want to stay neutral on Proposal 23, the closure of
5 Unit 11 caribou. Proposal 24 to add Glennallen for goat, Unit
6 11. Proposal 25 to add families. Proposal 29 to add families
7 for c&t and Proposal 38. We'll just stay neutral on those.

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are you done?

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph.

14

15 MR. LOHSE: Gloria, do you have a copy of that that you
16 could give out to all of use Council members?

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: I give a few to her.

19

20 MS. EAKON: I could make copies.

21

22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I hope you'll be around here when we
23 start on the proposals, so you can make additional comments.

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Will you be able to do that?

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

30

31 MR. LOHSE: A very good job, Gloria.

32

33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. I want to introduce or have
34 this person introduce himself. John just walked in, John
35 Jarvis from National Park Service.

36

37 MR. JARVIS: John Jarvis, Superintendent Wrangell/St.
38 Elias.

39

40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Helga.

41

42 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, I should also like to introduce
43 two people on line. We have Robert Willis, who is our wildlife
44 biologist. He could not be here today, but he is joining us
45 from our office in Anchorage. And we also have on line Tom
46 Carpenter, who is the Chair of Copper River/Prince William
47 Sound Local Advisory Committee over in Cordova.

48

49 And I just wanted to do a sound check. Robert, can you
50 hear okay?

00027

1 MR. WILLIS: Yes, I can hear you fine, Helga.

2
3 MS. EAKON: Tom, can you hear okay?

4
5 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, I can.

6
7 MS. EAKON: Okay. And, Tom, could you please tell us
8 which proposals you want to stay on line for? Is that just 17
9 through 19 inclusive?

10
11 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, 17, 18, 19 and I also like to
12 comment on Proposal 29 which this Advisory Committee had passed
13 and made an amendment to the proposal. I sent it in to you,
14 oh, a couple of months ago to be considered at this meeting.

15
16 MS. EAKON: Okay, that was Proposal 29?

17
18 MR. CARPENTER: Right.

19
20 MS. EAKON: Sheep in Unit 11?

21
22 MR. CARPENTER: Right.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Okay. Thank you.

25
26 MR. CARPENTER: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN EWAN: He's going to wait until we get to that
29 proposal?

30
31 MS. EAKON: Um-hum.

32
33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Where are we then? Are we past
34 the.....

35
36 MS. EAKON: Yes, we area on agenda item 8, the proposal
37 to change the subsistence regulations.

38
39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we're on Subpart C, customary and
40 traditional use determination and Subpart D, seasons, harvest
41 limits and methods and means.

42
43 Federal subsistence regulations and report on the a
44 joint Southcentral and Eastern Interior coordination meeting.
45 Fred John. Should we get into that first or.....

46
47 MS. EAKON: Um-hum.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Fred. This is a joint meeting
50 that we had, since we had common interests with the Eastern

00028

1 Interior and this is what Fred is going to report about.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: I'm not going to go into the specific,
4 I'm just going to say why we met. We met with the Eastern
5 Interior, Nathaniel Good of Delta Junction was there and
6 Charles Miller, Dot Lake, was there on the telephone and I was
7 there. And we meet once a year because we just have some
8 information on overlapping, maybe, between Southcentral and
9 Eastern Interior. And the information is on part -- it's on R
10 on the book here.

11

12 And I'd like to express that in the village we have
13 what we call clans and we have extended family and those out in
14 the National Park, like we're from -- my family on my mom's
15 side is from Batzulnetas and the people from Dot Lake are all
16 from Batzulnetas, their families on my mom's side. But they
17 moved up toward Delta there, about 40 miles, so traditionally
18 and culturally we're really close and we have a lot of things
19 in common, and we all come from -- so we really talk about
20 these things that overlap and we come to some pretty good
21 understanding on a lot of area about hunting area and what they
22 could get and everything, so it's really good meeting.

23

24 This meeting we only have once a year then when I have
25 to talk about it, it's so long gone, I had to look the whole
26 thing over and see what we talk about. But we just talk about
27 our common goal and our common culture and our hunting area on
28 the park land and Dot Lake and mostly what affect us, affects
29 Dot Lake and there's another village way up called Healy that's
30 way in another -- it's in another unit that related to Dot Lake
31 pretty close and Mentasta. So we talk about these things and
32 we hash out our, you know, just what's common to the both of
33 us.

34

35 That's all I'd like to say.

36

37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That it, Fred?

38

39 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Helga, do you have a comment?

42

43 MS. EAKON: Yes, as a designated Federal officer under
44 the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 as amended, I would
45 like to say that there were no decisions made at this work
46 session. The representatives who attended there just shared
47 information and were very careful not to make any kind of
48 recommendations. This was just to share information on
49 overlapping proposals.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I just want to comment on what Fred
2 said about, you know, the communities kind of being
3 interrelated by marriage and so forth. There's Dot Lake,
4 Tanacross and Northway for those that don't know, really are
5 closely related. Some families come from the same community,
6 that he just mentioned of Batzulnetas, they call that place.
7 And they kind of spread out when the community, I don't know,
8 for some reason or another decided to move, most of the people
9 kind of dispersed out in Dot Lake, Northway, Tanacross and that
10 area, so that is what Fred is talking about. I think it's very
11 important for the record to show that these people that are
12 still living in Dot Lake and Tanacross did use the park lands
13 for their -- in the recent past. That's what we're trying to
14 record and I'm glad that Fred and the people from Dot Lake are
15 doing that.

16
17 With that, we'll go on then to Denali SRC comments. Is
18 that the next item, Helga? The Denali SRC?

19
20 MS. EAKON: Yes, these were public comments on the
21 proposals that were received late, and as they were received
22 late, I decided to put a copy for information purposes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: We have copies of this?

25
26 MS. EAKON: Yes, and I will state their comments when
27 we come to the proposals that they commented on.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. We'll get into the proposals.
30 For the public information the procedure for proposal
31 consideration is up there. We have introductions, usually done
32 by Helga and so forth on down the line there, we go through
33 that process.

34
35 Helga, you ready?

36
37 MS. EAKON: Yes. Proposal 17 is a Southeast proposal
38 for which the Southcentral Regional Council has already made a
39 recommendation, which you did at your October 1997 public
40 meeting. You had recommended providing a positive customary
41 and traditional use determination in Unit 6(A) for the
42 residents of Unit 5(A), 6(C) and the residents of Chenega and
43 Tatitlek. Your justification was the staff analysis, the ADF&G
44 records, local resident testimony all indicate usage and
45 movement of residents among their communities in these area.
46 At that time your vote was six for and zero against and one
47 absent.

48
49 Do you want your memories to be refreshed on the this
50 proposal and also what Southeast Council did recently or how do

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1 you want to do this?

2
3 (No audible responses)

4
5 MS. EAKON: Okay, in which case we'll turn it over to
6 Rachel Mason.

7
8 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To refresh your
9 memories, this was a proposal that requested a positive c&t for
10 goat in Units 5 and 6(A) for residents of Unit 5. It
11 consolidated a number of backlogged proposals and then it was
12 deferred, so most recently it was considered in 1997 and it was
13 deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board in order to receive
14 input from this Council. There's no c&t determination for goat
15 in Unit 5 at present. There's no c&t determination for goat in
16 Unit 6(A). And the reason for deferral last time -- the
17 proposal originated in the Southeast Region but part of the use
18 area, Unit 6(A), is in the Southcentral Region. So the
19 Southcentral Council expressed a view that it was likely that
20 residents in Unit 6 had customarily and traditionally use goats
21 in Unit 6(A). And so as Helga just told you, the Southcentral
22 Regional Council voted to recommend deferral of the proposals
23 on ground that uses by Unit 6 residents had not be properly
24 considered.

25
26 There was a meeting last May of representative of the
27 Southcentral and the Southeast Regional Councils in Cordova and
28 at that meeting the idea was developed that there is minimal
29 overlap in the uses of Unit 6(A) for goat, for moose and for
30 wolf, which were the three species that are affected by the
31 proposals there. And based on the discussions at that meeting,
32 the idea was formed of dividing Unit 6(A) in half with the
33 residents of Unit 5(A) having a positive c&t, in this case for
34 goat, on the eastern portion of it, whereas, residents of Unit
35 6 would have a positive c&t in the western portion of Unit
36 6(A).

37
38 However, at the Southeast Regional Council meeting last
39 fall we heard public testimony, Council testimony, saying that
40 they adamantly oppose dividing Unit 6(A) in half. And they
41 presented statements that their ancestors come from the western
42 portion of Unit 6(A), especially from Katalla which is a now
43 abandoned community that's on the western side of 6(A).

44
45 So, as you heard, in the October meeting of 1997, the
46 Southcentral Regional Council recommended a positive c&t
47 determination for goat in Unit 6(A) for the residents of Unit
48 5(A), 6(C) and the residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek.

49
50 The proposal analysis didn't change. I looked again at

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1 the data that we received along with the testimony that was
2 given in the Regional Council meetings for both regions and the
3 preliminary conclusion was to support the proposal with the
4 modification that residents of Unit 5(A), rather than residents
5 of 5, and this something that had come up in the Southeast
6 Region, because there are only permanent residents of Unit
7 5(A), rather than for only Unit 5 as a whole, and that adding
8 that residents of Unit 6(C) have a positive determination for
9 goat in Unit 6(A).

10
11 So the net effect of the staff recommendation would be
12 for the whole of Unit 6(A) to have a positive c&t for the
13 residents of Unit 5(A) and 6(C).

14
15 The justification for this was that it's clear that
16 Yakutat residents have customarily and traditionally harvested
17 goats in Unit 5 and in 6(A). Each of the communities in
18 Yakutat, Cordova and Cape Yakataga in the harvest records have
19 recorded a harvest of one goat each in Unit 6(A) over the years
20 1986 to 1996. So as far as recorded harvest tickets it's about
21 evenly divided among the residents of Unit 5 and of 6(C).

22 And we've also heard Regional Council members and also
23 the statements of Cordova residents to the effect that
24 community has traditionally used Unit 6(A) for goat hunting.
25 We have less evidence, however, that the residents of Chenega
26 Bay and Tatitlek have traditionally used that area. All the
27 recorded harvests of goats by the residents of those
28 communities have been in 6(D) and it's possible that we will
29 hear further information. I was hoping that Mr. Kompkoff would
30 be here at this meeting or possibly from Cordova residents.

31
32 So that summarizes the history of this proposal. At
33 the Southeast Regional Council meeting, which was last week,
34 that Council again heard this analysis and they again declined
35 to act on the portion of it that represents the Southcentral
36 Region. They only voted on -- that the residents of Unit 5
37 should have a positive c&t in 5 and 6(A). And actually they --
38 they're recommendation was for the residents of Unit 5(A) to
39 have a positive c&t in Units 5 and 6(A). So they're not
40 necessarily opposed to residents of Unit 6 having a positive
41 c&t in that subunit but they don't want to act on it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Process-wise, we go to other
44 comments then. Fish and Game. Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, do we have someone here to make comment on this proposal?
46 Jeff.

47
48 MR. SELINGER: Not on this proposal but there are other
49 proposal that we would like to comment on.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are there any other agencies that want
2 to make comment on this proposal?

3
4 (No audible responses)

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, we'll go down to -- I can't see
7 this.

8
9 MS. EAKON: Written comments.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Our Regional Council
12 recommendation.

13
14 MS. EAKON: Written comments, we do have.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, yes, go ahead with the written
17 comments.

18
19 MS. EAKON: Okay. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
20 wrote in a comment that they want us to defer action until
21 there's a complete review of which communities have a customary
22 and traditional use of goats in Unit 5 and 6(A). Rainbow
23 St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
24 supported the same proposal in spring 1997 and continues to
25 support this proposal. That's their tentative comment.

26
27 MS. MASON: It's no longer tentative, we got.....

28
29 MS. EAKON: Oh, it is final?

30
31 MS. MASON: Yea.

32
33 MS. EAKON: Okay, it is a final comment. The Copper
34 River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee in
35 Cordova are opposed. The current proposal would include the
36 logging camps and Unit 6(A) has very little area of Federal
37 lands that have goats. The areas that have goats are State or
38 private lands. If adopted, it should be for residents of Unit
39 5(A).

40
41 End of public written comments, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is that the end of the public -- or we
44 open it to the public now?

45
46 MS. EAKON: Yes, we open it to the public.

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are there any public member that wants
49 to make a comment right now?

50

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1 MR. CARPENTER: Hello.

2
3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

4
5 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, this is Tom Carpenter in Cordova.

6
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Hi, Tom, you're on.

8
9 MR. CARPENTER: How you doing today? I just want to
10 say I appreciate that opportunity to have the phone patch, it's
11 kind of difficult to get to all the meetings but, anyway, I
12 think we can make due with this. It's quit an opportunity.

13
14 The one thing that the Copper River/Prince William
15 Sound Advisory Committee wants to make a point about Proposal
16 17 is that the big push in this area in Unit 6(A) and 6(B) down
17 towards 5(D) toward the Icy Bay area is we have a lot of
18 commercial activity going on down here. And a lot of these
19 commercial activities include logging camps, guiding camps and
20 what have you. Now a lot of these operations are year around
21 and what we're afraid of is that a lot of these people are
22 going to stay for a year, become a resident, and all of a
23 sudden they're going to have the right to go in there and
24 harvest under the subsistence laws and then two or three years
25 later they're going to be gone.

26
27 We think that this distracts from both residents of
28 Yakutat area, Cape Yakataga permanent residents and residents
29 of Unit 6(C), which is in Cordova from the subsistence rights
30 that they have traditionally had down there. So that's one of
31 the reasons that we felt that Unit 5(A) needed to be enclosed
32 in this proposal to disallow the people that were non-permanent
33 residents that were just down there for a temporary amount of
34 time, say four or five years, in the logging operation, per se,
35 to be included in these subsistence harvests.

36
37 So if the Federal Subsistence Board had already made
38 the plan to just include residents of 5(A) and somehow, however
39 they can do it, to include only the permanent residents of Cape
40 Yakataga then I think that this proposal will be fine, but I
41 just want the Regional Council when they go to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board this next time to be able to tell them about,
43 you know, the ever growing population of people down here which
44 sometimes in the summer will amount to as many as 3-700 people,
45 which, you know, that's a small community itself that doesn't
46 really have traditional values down there.

47
48 So that's basically what we'd like to say on this
49 proposal. Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any other public comments?

2
3 (No audible responses)

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If now we'll get down to Regional
6 Council recommendation and justification. I would like to ask
7 Ralph if he kind of give a little background, just a little
8 review for the Council members and for the public here of
9 what's going on here.

10
11 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I'll try to do the best I can on
12 that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: The reason I say that is the Cordova
15 for us up in the Interior here is kind of a different area for
16 us, we're not familiar with that, so it would help if you would
17 just refresh our memory about what took place.

18
19 MR. LOHSE: We're dealing with an area that does have
20 overlap in it, usage overlap, and like it's pointed out by the
21 Southeast people, a lot of the people from the Yakutat area are
22 from -- or some of the people from the Yakutat area, up from
23 the Katalla area which is right down there in 6(A), also a lot
24 of people in Cordova also. So we have, you know, there's
25 interrelationship there and it's pretty obvious that in the
26 past both area and even document that both groups of people
27 have used that area for subsistence purposes.

28
29 Like Tom pointed out, what we're dealing with right now
30 in the, I'd say the northern or western portion of Unit 5, in
31 other words, 5(B), we have a lot of temporary work going on.
32 There's a bunch of logging going on university land and there's
33 the possibility for the Bering River coal fields and all that
34 area to be developed in the next, you know, 10 or 12 years, so
35 we have the chance for a lot of, comparatively speaking,
36 temporary -- temporary meaning not long term, intending to stay
37 there, communities being developed. Like Tom said, currently
38 we have between 3-700 people there during the year. They've
39 got of lot of fish camps, sporting fish camps have sprung up.
40 And some of them have permanent people that stay all year round
41 in them.

42
43 The intent on customary and traditional is to find
44 customary and traditional for the communities that have
45 traditionally made use of the subsistence resources there. And
46 while the proposal asks for Unit 5, I would have to support
47 5(A), which is where the traditional communities are. And at
48 the same time while the proposal asks for Unit 5, I'd have to
49 include 6(C) where the other traditional community that makes
50 use of the same area is.

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1 Included in that we have in the proposal that we
2 originally recommended, we had included Tatitlek and Chenega,
3 and again we're dealing with a community, that's the community
4 of Prince William Sound, that has people that go from Chenega
5 to Cordova, to Chenega to Tatitlek and there's a movement in
6 those people and a sharing in those people.
7

8 So I, myself, would prefer to see us have it as we
9 originally supported, which would be Unit 6(C), the people of
10 Chenega, Tatitlek, the villages of Chenega and Tatitlek and the
11 people who are residents in Unit 5(A) and find a customary and
12 positive -- you know, kind of customary and traditional
13 positive finding for them.
14

15 We had talked about having the meeting in Cordova
16 between the two different -- you know, the two representatives,
17 but -- not direct representatives of different areas there and
18 we talked about the division -- dividing 6(A) into 6(A) West
19 and 6(A) East, which is used right now, there's already a line
20 on the map that does that, it's used for moose hunting. I can
21 understand the people from Katalla, I mean the people from
22 Yakutat are saying they used the whole area and, you know,
23 their people come from Katalla just like people in Cordova come
24 from Katalla, some of them. Again not all in both cases, but
25 -- so I'd have to support the customary and traditional
26 finding, you know, for the permanent communities in Unit 5(A)
27 and the permanent communities in 6(C) and Tatitlek and
28 Chenega.,
29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Ralph. I have a question
31 about the logging operations that Tom was talking about. Is
32 that in Unit 5(A) or.....
33

34 MR. LOHSE: That's in Unit 5(B).
35

36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: 5(B), okay. The next question then is
37 addressed to the staff. Is it legal to exclude people that are
38 in the area for only five years or less?
39

40 MR. BOYD: Well, I think we're asking you to identify
41 those communities that have customary and traditional use. Not
42 all communities in every area, and this is just statewide, have
43 -- there are circumstances where not all communities in an area
44 have been found to have customary and traditional use. I think
45 what I'm hearing you say is that there's some rationale
46 supporting being selective here and that's what we're seeking,
47 that's the kind of information that we're seeking from you. So
48 to be specific to the point, it's legal.
49

50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you. Any comments from

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1 Regional Council? Any comments? No comments?

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: This is just for the rural residents of
4 Unit 5 to hunt in Unit 6?

5

6 MR. LOHSE: Unit 6(A), right. Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

9

10 MR. LOHSE: Could I ask Helga to reiterate the original
11 way that we put out -- you know, our original amendment that we
12 put to the proposal from our region?

13

14 MS. EAKON: Yes. Your original recommendation in
15 October of 1997 was to provide a positive customary and
16 traditional use determination in Unit 6(A) for the residents of
17 Unit 5(A), 6(C) and for the residents of Chenega and Tatitlek.

18

19 Your justification was based on the staff analysis,
20 ADF&G records, local resident testimony which all indicate
21 usage and movement of residents among the communities in this
22 area.

23

24 MR. LOHSE: I'd like to make a motion that we adopt the
25 proposal as we had it in October 1997.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

28

29 MR. DEMENTI: I'll second it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. Further
32 discussion on the motion?

33

34 For my information, I know that it's all here and it's
35 all be explained, but could you do it one more time? How do we
36 differ here from the recommendation of staff?

37

38 MS. MASON: The staff recommendation was that not to
39 support Chenega Bay and Tatitlek.

40

41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So that's all we're adding here?

42

43 MS. MASON: That's the only difference.

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Well, in that case, I support
46 the motion. Any other comments?

47

48 (No audible responses)

49

50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: You ready to vote? Okay, all in favor

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1 say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

6

7 (No opposing responses)

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried.

10

11 MR. LOHSE: We need a break.

12

13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll have a five minute break.

14

15 (Off record - 11:46 a.m.)

16

17 (On record - 11:53 a.m.)

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, I'll call the meeting back to
20 order. The next proposal that we'll be discussing is Proposal
21 18 and I understand that overlaps with 19, so we'll turn it
22 over to Helga now.

23

24 MS. EAKON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal 18 would
25 revise the c&t determination for wolves in Units 5 and 6(A).
26 This is a Southeast proposal. At your October 1997 public
27 meeting you recommended providing a positive c&t determination
28 in Unit 6(A) only for the residents of Unit 5, in addition to
29 those already listed as having a positive determination.

30

31 Justification: There is testimony to indicate that
32 there has been some usage of Unit 6(A) by Yakutat residents.
33 The vote was seven for and zero against.

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Rachel.

36

37 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This proposal
38 requests a positive c&t determination for wolf in Units 5 and
39 6(A). This is along the same lines as the one that we just
40 heard for goat and the one for moose that you dealt with last
41 fall. This was one of the ones that was deferred by the
42 Federal Subsistence Board last year in order to receive input
43 from the Southcentral Council.

44

45 There's no determination for wolf in Unit 5 at the
46 present, but in Unit 6 there -- it's one of those very, very
47 broad c&ts that were adopted from the State, so that under
48 current regulations the people having a positive c&t in Unit
49 6(A) or the rural residents of Unit 6, 9, 10, Unimak Island, 11
50 to 13 and the residents of Chickaloon and Unit 16 through 26.

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1 So basically almost everyone, except the residents of Unit
2 5(A).

3
4 In last year's discussion there was some clarification
5 that the intent of the proposal was not to substitute residents
6 of Unit 5 for this broad array of people, but instead the
7 suggestion was that it be added to the broad array, not to
8 revoke opportunities for the other ones.

9
10 I wanted to add, at this point, that as we did last
11 year with some of those grouse and ptarmigan, very broad
12 proposals, this is an opportunity to make it a narrow c&t
13 determination than this extremely broad one that was adopted
14 from the State.

15
16 So the way that the staff recommendation differs from
17 your recommendation of last fall is that I -- my suggestion was
18 to have a further modification to change the c&t in Unit 6(A)
19 to the residents only of Unit 6(C) and 5(A) rather than all the
20 broad array of different units.

21
22 The proposal history is similar to what you heard for
23 the last proposal, so I will not belabor it. I did want to
24 point out that there is no record of Yakutat members --
25 community members using State lands to harvest wolves in Unit
26 6(A) in the years 1979 to '95, however, we have -- we do have
27 records that Cordova residents have used the same area. And we
28 heard testimony from the residents of Yakutat at last fall's
29 Council meeting to the effect that Unit 6(A) is within their
30 traditional lands for harvesting wolves.

31
32 Since then I've also spoken to a person who lives in
33 Yakutat, Ted Valley who is in the Kaagwaantaan Clan which
34 traditionally used the Kaliakh River, which is in Unit 6(A) to
35 harvest wolves. And this man's grandfather's people are the
36 Wolf House and he's confirmed that his clan had harvested
37 wolves among other resources at the Kaliakh River.

38
39 The conclusion, again, was to support the positive
40 determination for wolf in Unit 5 with a modification that
41 residents of Unit 5(A) rather than residents of 5 should have a
42 positive determination for wolf in Units 5 and 6(A). And in
43 Unit 6(A) to have a positive c&t determination for the
44 residents of 6(C) and 5(A).

45
46 Should I go on with what the Southeast Council did with
47 this?

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

50

00039

1 MS. MASON: Okay. The Southeast Council also heard
2 this proposal at their meeting last week and, again, they
3 declined to act on any part if it that affected the
4 Southcentral Region, but only acted on the portion of it
5 concerning Unit 5. So their modification was to include the
6 residents of Unit 5(A), meaning the residents of Yakutat,
7 instead of residents of Unit 5 as a whole and recommended that
8 the Southcentral Council -- or they suggested that you might
9 wish to remove all the residents of other units, other than
10 residents of Unit 6(C) and 5(A), but they did not want to act
11 on that themselves, so they said the decision had to be made by
12 you, but they had no problem with trying to clean up that broad
13 c&t proposal.

14
15 The new regulation, as recommended by the Southeast
16 Council would be in Unit 5 wolf, rural residents of Unit 5(A).
17 Then Unit 6(A) wolf, rural residents of Unit 5(A), so they only
18 acted on the residents of their own region.

19
20 That's all I have.

21
22 MS. EAKON: Point of clarification, Rachel. On page
23 27, so you have added recommendation that is not in the Council
24 books?

25
26 MS. MASON: That is correct.

27
28 MS. EAKON: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Would you go -- the difference again?
31 Just point out the difference again so it's clear in my mind.
32 This area, again, is an area that I'm not very familiar with.
33 I rely on people like Ralph and Mr. Kompkoff, who is not here
34 today, to give us some input here. I want to be clear in my
35 mind what is the difference between your recommendation and
36 what the.....

37
38 MS. MASON: Well, the staff analysis conclusion as is
39 it in your books does not have the further modification of
40 making the c&t more restrictive in Unit 6(A). So what it says
41 in your book is that the staff supports the positive c&t for
42 wolf in Unit 5 with the modification that residents of 5(A),
43 rather than Unit 5, should have a positive determination for
44 wolf in Units 5 and 6(A). Left off of this was any action for
45 Unit 6(A), so the staff conclusion would also be that would
46 support a positive c&t determination for wolf in Unit 6(A) for
47 residents of Unit 6(C) and Unit 5(A).

48
49 That's.....

50

00040

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any agency comments then?

2
3 (No audible responses)

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

6
7 MR. SELINGER: Not from this office up here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any other agency comments?

10
11 (No audible responses)

12
13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Helga, did you something else?

14
15 MS. EAKON: Yes, there were written comments. The
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends deferral pending
17 a complete review of which communities have a customary and
18 traditional use in Units 5 and 6(A).

19
20 The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game
21 Advisory Committee in Cordova opposed, saying that there is no
22 substantial proof that there has ever been a traditional
23 subsistence pattern for Unit 5 residents in Subunit 6(A). Also
24 the proposal was written to include all residents of Unit 5.

25
26 End of comments.

27
28 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any other comments from the
29 public, I guess.

30
31 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, this is Tom Carpenter again in
32 Cordova.

33
34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, Tom, you're on.

35
36 MR. CARPENTER: Okay, thank you very much. On this one
37 a couple of interesting things, I think. And this was just
38 given in your staff report. I think it's kind of interesting
39 that there is, you know, no record from the mid-'70 till the
40 mid-'90s of any, you know, harvest of wolf by Unit 5 residents
41 in Unit 6(A).

42
43 The one thing I have a question about is, is she said
44 that she had had some verbal testimony. I'm curious if there's
45 anywhere on record of any written testimony from any of these
46 people in Yakutat about these conversations that you had. And
47 if there is, I think that's -- you know, that's one thing, but
48 I think verbal testimony is sometimes a little bit misleading
49 when you're going to make a determination about a whole
50 community.

00041

1 The other thing is that we just -- you know, going back
2 through the records haven't necessarily found, like she stated,
3 that there is a real pattern in last 20-25 years that there has
4 been a traditional harvest of wolf down there.

5
6 The other thing that we'd like to comment on is
7 something that she also said, was that we think that the
8 subsistence regulation as it stands right now, including the
9 people from a wide variety of communities around the state is
10 way too broad of a pattern and if this proposal was to go
11 through we would agree with the fact that residents of 6(C),
12 which is Cordova, and if the Regional Council is going to find
13 for residents of Unit 5, that it be 5(A) only as in the last
14 proposal dealing with goats, due to the various tent
15 communities, for which you want to call them, that have popped
16 up down the coast.

17
18 Ant that we do think that those two areas, if there is
19 going to be a positive finding for Unit 5(A), that the rest of
20 them should be eliminated from the subsistence proposal or
21 regulations and Unit 6(C) and Unit 5(A) would be the only
22 communities left.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, any other public comment then?
27 Did you have something else, Rachel?

28
29 MS. MASON: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to respond to
30 Mr. Carpenter's comment about the verbal testimony. The
31 individual who was referenced in this had also testified at the
32 Southeast meeting in Yakutat and had given essentially the same
33 information, I only clarified it a little bit with him on the
34 telephone. And the Council members specifically requested that
35 we bring the transcript of that meeting to the Southcentral
36 meeting in order to get more specific detail. So, I mean, it
37 was verbal testimony but it was recorded very accurately and we
38 had in the court reporter.

39
40 MR. CARPENTER: Okay, thank you very much for that.

41
42 MS. MASON: You bet.

43
44 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other public comments?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Before we get into the Council
49 recommendations and justification, I do have a question.
50 That's about harvest, any information on harvest and -- maybe

00042

1 Ralph could tell me about accessibility and all that stuff. I
2 don't know that area at all. Do we have any information?

3
4 MS. MASON: Mr. Chairman, the information we have on
5 harvest is from the harvest tickets which I made reference to.
6 There isn't any record of the Yakutat residents having
7 harvested wolves in Subunit 6(A). However, there are records
8 of Cordova residents having done so, as well a number of other
9 communities.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So there's really no concern about
12 impact, huh? Negative impact here of any kind?

13
14 MS. MASON: I can't speak to that, and maybe Mr. Lohse
15 could give better information.

16
17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll get him to. Go ahead,
18 Ralph.

19
20 MR. LOHSE: Well, first of all, Roy, I can't speak to
21 the impact part of it either, I -- it's a fairly isolated area
22 we're talking about. Access to that area is by boat or by
23 plane, traditionally by boat. There are -- it's an area that
24 does not have good harbors, good places to pull into, so it's
25 kind of a transition area that people pass back and forth
26 through, prior to the establishment of logging camps now and
27 some of these guiding operations that are going on.

28
29 I think that with the information that Rachel brought
30 back from the Southeast meeting and Ted Valley's information on
31 his family's use of the Kaliakh, which is one of the places
32 that's got a big camp on it now, there probably is evidence
33 that people from Unit 5(A) have made use of wolves in the past
34 in that area there. We have public information that people
35 from Unit 6(C) have made use of that area there.

36
37 I don't know where the determination came up originally
38 by the State, currently the law reads that it has residents of
39 Unit 6 and 9 and 10, Unimak Island only, 11 through 13 and
40 residents of Chickaloon and Unit 16 through 26. I don't know
41 where that information was derived but they've used it in the
42 past, possibly it's been transient, somebody passing through in
43 the past or whatever.

44
45 I would definitely have to support c&t for residents of
46 Unit 6(C) and I would support at this time c&t for residents of
47 Unit 5(A). I don't know if I -- you know, I haven't been
48 presented any information to drop out these other groups of
49 people because -- and we haven't got any information on that, I
50 don't know where the information came from that put them in to

00043

1 begin with.

2

3 So at this point in time the only thing that I could
4 see doing is supporting what we originally said, which was
5 basically to add the residents of 5(A) to 6(A) for customary
6 and traditional finding on wolf. Again, as far as the impact
7 in that area is concerned, I don't think wolves are
8 overharvested in that area, at this point in time, or have much
9 of the ability to be overharvested simply because it's so
10 inaccessible and so hard to get at.

11

12 I do know that one of the residents that I as a
13 neighbor in Unit 11 had trapped wolves down there back in the
14 early '50s, but he was trapping with an airplane, so that's
15 where some of the inclusion has come in. So I would recommend
16 -- if I remember right, Helga, our original recommendation was
17 to include residents in Unit 5(A). Or did we say Unit 5
18 originally?

19

20 MS. EAKON: It was broader than that. You recommended
21 providing a positive c&t determination in Unit 6(A) only for
22 the residents of Unit 5, in addition to those already listed
23 as having a positive determination.

24

25 MR. LOHSE: Okay, so we originally recommended the
26 whole of Unit 5. I'd be willing to change that to residents of
27 Unit 5(A). And until sometime in the future when somebody
28 could show why these others were in there or why they shouldn't
29 be in there, I don't have any data to go on to drop somebody
30 else out, but I do think we have data to add the residency into
31 5(A).

32

33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any other comments from the
34 Council members?

35

36 MR. LOHSE: Would you like me to make a motion to that
37 effect?

38

39 MS. EAKON: And Rachel's addition of.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: 6(A).

42

43 MS. MASON: 6(C).

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: 6(C), yeah.

46

47 MR. LOHSE: Well, currently, if we leave it the way it
48 stands and all 5(A) -- Unit 6 is already in there.

49

50 MS. MASON: Oh -- yeah. Okay, yeah.

00044

1 MR. LOHSE: You know, it's already included.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So we could leave out identifying 6(C)?

4

5 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, we wouldn't need -- if we leave the
6 regulation as it stands and add 5(A), 6(C) is already included.

7

8 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Fred.

9

10 MR. F. JOHN: Just add 5(A), too, you say?

11

12 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. If we felt that there was evidence
13 to -- if it was felt that there was evidence to drop and start
14 over, then I would probably just make a proposal to have
15 residents in Unit 6(C) and 5(A), but I don't feel like we've
16 been presented any evidence to that, you know, to do that at
17 this point in time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: It is a little bit confusing to me, but
20 it's clearing up now. I'll entertain a motion.

21

22 MR. LOHSE: I'll make the motion to add rural residents
23 of 5(A) to the existing regulation.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

26

27 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is seconded. Further discussion
30 on the motion?

31

32 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Question has been called for. All
35 those in favor say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

40

41 (No opposing responses)

42

43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried.

44

45 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph.

48

49 MR. LOHSE: If we thought it was important enough we
50 could request that information be brought before the Council to

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1 show us why these other ones are included in there and whether
2 or not this proposal needs to be modified to correctly reflect
3 real c&t uses of 6(A).

4
5 MS. MASON: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

8
9 MS. MASON: Would that be just for this unit or for all
10 the units in which there is an extremely broad c&t for wolf or
11 for any -- the same is true of ptarmigan and grouse in some
12 other ones.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I think so, for my information.

15
16 MR. LOHSE: Well, I mean, if it's import -- I feel that
17 if somebody wants us to drop somebody out, they need to present
18 us with justification and information as to why they were
19 included to begin with and why they should be dropped out. I
20 can't see us making determinations to drop these people out
21 when we don't even know why they were in there, you know. At
22 the same time I feel that 6(C) and 5(A) are probably the true
23 subsistence users of Unit 6(A), you know, but there's -- I
24 don't even have the information in front of me why these others
25 were included.

26
27 MS. MASON: Mr. Chair, that would be -- so your
28 suggestion, Ralph, is that you would -- every time one of these
29 c&ts comes up, you would want a full review of whether each of
30 the units that already included has ever harvested in that
31 unit?

32
33 MR. LOHSE: If a decision is -- if it's suggested that
34 we make a decision to drop then I think that kind of
35 justification is necessary. If everybody is comfortable with
36 adding 5(A) to this one here, for example, and leaving the
37 others as they stand, then I don't think that's necessary, but
38 in the case of these broad proposals -- these broad regulations
39 like this, if there's a feeling that these need to be
40 delineated, we need to have justification and evidence, you
41 know.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are we ready to go to -- did we vote on
44 this?

45
46 MR. LOHSE: We have.

47
48 MS. EAKON: We have one more overlapping.

49
50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

1 MS. EAKON: We have one more overlapping, Mr. Chair,
2 for which Mr. Carpenter would like to offer some testimony and
3 that's Proposal 19 which would establish a customary and
4 traditional use determination for moose in Unit 6(A), 6(B) and
5 6(C). And the presenter is Rachel Mason.

6
7 MS. MASON: Thank you. Proposal 19 was submitted by
8 Donald Kompkoff, Sr. and it requests that the residents of
9 Tatitlek and Chenega Bay be added to those with a positive c&t
10 for moose in Units 6(A), 6(B), and 6(C). Currently, by the
11 action and the Federal Subsistence Board last fall, the rural
12 residents of Units 5(A), 6(A), 6(B) and 6(C) have a positive
13 c&t for moose in Unit 6(A). The rural residents of Units 6(A),
14 6(B) and 6(C) have a positive c&t determination for moose in
15 Units 6(B) and 6(C). There's presently no subsistence priority
16 for taking moose in Unit 6(D), which is where both Tatitlek and
17 Chenega Bay are located. Those two communities have a positive
18 c&t for moose in the Kings Bay area of Unit 7.

19
20 So this deals with the same area that we have been
21 discussing for goat and wolf. Again, there are no permanent
22 communities in either Units 6(A) or 6(B). The communities that
23 are included in this request are both in Unit 6(D) and these
24 are both predominantly Chugach Alutiiq villages. There are
25 other communities in Unit 6(D), including Valdez and Whittier.
26 Valdez is a nonrural community, but Whittier is a rural
27 community.

28
29 The proposal was motivated by the Southcentral
30 Council's recommendation on what was called Proposal 15 last
31 year and that was the proposal for c&t determination for moose
32 in Units 5 and 6(A) which was deferred. And it was -- as you
33 considered it, it was combined with a request for a harvest of
34 a ceremonial moose in Unit 6(C), which also required a c&t
35 determination in that subunit. So in order to -- for
36 simplicity and efficiency we considered c&t uses in Unit 6 as a
37 whole rather than separating it out into all the subunits.

38
39 The conclusion of that, and what was supported by the
40 Council, is that there was little or no moose population in
41 Unit 6(D) and the residents of that subunit, which include
42 Tatitlek and Chenega Bay had not had a chance to develop
43 customary and traditional moose hunting in the area, so those
44 two communities, like the other residents of Unit 6(D) were not
45 included in the recommendation for positive c&t for moose.

46
47 But also, in the 1997 cycle, the Board had last spring
48 adopted a positive c&t for the two communities under
49 consideration here for moose in the Kings Bay area in Unit 7.

00047

1 As you know, moose are an introduced species in Unit 6
2 and the only parts of Unit 6 where moose are indigenous are one
3 small area near Valdez and another one around Kings Bay. In
4 1949 the first moose were introduced in Unit 6(C) and prior to
5 that, except through trade with other groups, there was very
6 little use of moose by the residents of Unit 6 until hunting
7 seasons were opened in 1960.

8
9 The moose harvest, over the years, by residents of
10 Tatitlek and Chenega Bay have been quite small and in
11 subsistence harvest studies in those communities neither
12 community has reported any harvest of moose since 1987, but in
13 both the communities, except for one year in Tatitlek, the
14 residents have both used and received moose, so obviously they
15 are involved in moose harvest or in using moose, even if no
16 harvest have been recorded.

17
18 The harvest use areas for the former village of
19 Chenega, which was destroyed in the 1964 earthquake, they're
20 uses in 1960s were mapped in 1985 and 1986 and the only harvest
21 areas reported for this village was at Kings Bay, which is to
22 the east of the old village, but no past or contemporary use
23 areas were reported in Units 6(A), 6(B) or 6(C). Before the
24 new village of Chenega Bay was established some of the
25 residents of the former village had gone to Cordova, so
26 possibly in their many years of living there they have used
27 moose in those areas.

28
29 And, in fact, in September '84, three of the households
30 in the newly resettled village of Chenega Bay reported moose
31 hunting and two of them reported taking a moose, one of them in
32 5(B) and then the other one was in the Cooper River Delta,
33 which I believe was probably in Unit 6(C). This reflects the
34 fact that they have lived in Cordova for these years rather
35 than traditional harvest areas of Chenega residents and, in
36 fact, hunters interviewed in the early years of the new village
37 expressed hope that they would be able to hunt at Kings Bay in
38 the future, which points more to Kings Bay than to Units 6(A),
39 (B) or (C) as a traditional harvesting area.

40
41 As for Tatitlek hunters, they've harvested moose
42 exclusively in Unit 6(D) and there's no indication -- around
43 the Kings Bay area, excuse me. There's no indication that they
44 have harvested moose in Units 6(A), (B) or (C). Although,
45 again, they had used moose throughout the years.

46
47 The preliminary conclusion was not to support the
48 proposal to add Tatitlek and Chenega Bay to the c&t
49 determination for moose in Units 6(A), (B) and (C). The
50 justification was that it doesn't appear that there has been

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1 any customary and traditional use of moose by residents of
2 those communities in those subunits.

3
4 That concludes the staff analysis.

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Rachel. Do we have
7 any comments from Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

8
9 MR. SELINGER: Not from the Glennallen office.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any other agency comments?

12
13 (No audible responses)

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any public comment?

16
17 MS. EAKON: Written?

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Helga, can I ask this? I know that
20 Mr. Kompkoff proposed this. What did he say in his proposal?
21 Just refresh my memory. Did he say that they had used that
22 area in the past or what?

23
24 MS. EAKON: Actually his proposal, he proffered no
25 information, however, he called me when I was at the Bristol
26 Bay meeting in Dillingham last week and he said, Helga, I have
27 information from Tatitlek and my village that I want to tell
28 the Regional Council and he had fully intended to be here but
29 his wife is in the hospital, I guess, all of a sudden, so he
30 didn't want to leave her side. But he did telephone me
31 specifically at my hotel in Dillingham last week.

32
33 MR. F. JOHN: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

36
37 MR. F. JOHN: As for my on feeling on this, I don't
38 have much information that Chenega and -- where they hunt and
39 they haven't give us any, like CRNA did, you know, and before I
40 make any kind of decision I'd like to see one like that or.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Would you like to defer it?

43
44 MR. F. JOHN: Why don't we just defer it?

45
46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Defer it. Yeah, but anyway, we're on
47 public comments. Go ahead if you have any pub.....

48
49 MS. EAKON: Written public comments, the Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game deferred their written comments.

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1 The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game
2 Committee opposed this proposal, saying that Tatitlek and
3 Chenega already have a positive c&t for Subunit 6(D) along with
4 Unit 7. There has not been one person in the past 10 years
5 that has either taken a moose or even filled out a harvest
6 ticket indicating hunting in Unit 6(D).

7
8 End of comment.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, now we're down to Regional
11 Council recommendation and justification.

12
13 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, Mr. Carpenter.

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

16
17 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, hello, this is Tom Carpenter in
18 Cordova again.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, Tom, you're on.

21
22 MR. CARPENTER: Okay, thanks a lot. Just a few things
23 on this proposal. We agree with what your staff had to say
24 about there is a no evidence really of harvests from the
25 villages of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. You know the one thing
26 that I will say about this is there's a lot of people that live
27 in Cordova that at one time lived in Chenega or Tatitlek.
28 Chenega Bay, for example, has very few people that live there
29 anymore, you know, since the oil spill, most of the people have
30 moved out of Chenega and live, you know, in Valdez, Anchorage
31 and wherever else, there's some people that live in Cordova.

32
33 Tatitlek, there's still quite a few people that live
34 over there. They do have a positive c&t in Unit 6(D) over in
35 Kings Bay, which is on the left side of Prince William Sound
36 and in Unit 7. You know, basically the only thing we had to go
37 for was we went from was we went back through ADF&G records and
38 have found that in the past 10 years, that's as far back as I
39 went, that there's been no harvest of any moose in Unit 6,
40 including 6(D), which is in Kings Bay.

41
42 There obviously -- the one problem that we have with
43 these people moving from these villages to, say, Anchorage or
44 Valdez, places like that which are not rural communities and do
45 not fall under the subsistence guidelines, and we think this is
46 a problem with somehow keeping these people from saying they
47 live in Chenega or saying they still live in Tatitlek and
48 putting in for the subsistence. It's kind of hard to keep
49 track of things that way. We just wanted to bring that, you
50 know, point out.

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1 Other than that, there's obviously evidence that people
2 from these villages, over time, you know, seeing how some of
3 them have lived in Cordova have shared in moose meat and things
4 like that but, you know, there's evidence of people that live
5 in Anchorage that have friends in Cordova that could say the
6 same thing so, you know, sharing of the moose meat is one
7 thing, traditional harvest is another, which is what I think
8 we're talking about here. And we will agree with your staff
9 report to not recommend for these reasons that they two
10 villages have a traditional use in 6(A), (B) and (C).

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Tom, appreciate your
15 comments. Now we're to the Regional Council recommendation and
16 justification. Ralph, did you have.....

17
18 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, this is a hard one because Tom
19 brought up something that's very, very true and that's the fact
20 that there's a definite sharing between Cordova and Chenega and
21 Tatitlek, but we're also dealing with a moose hunt that's
22 probably the most regulated and recorded moose hunt in the
23 State of Alaska. I mean, it's a very recent history,
24 everything has always been done by permits and registration.

25
26 There has -- it's not like in other places in the state
27 where you have moose scattered around where people live. And
28 I'll just make general comment to things like homesteader
29 season and stuff like that. In other words, there's not a lot
30 of opportunity, these are very much watched moose. There's not
31 a lot of opportunity for people to have taken moose in the past
32 that wasn't recorded. I mean the moose that have been taken
33 have been recorded. And that way you've got a pretty good
34 record of who's taking all of the moose since the moose hunting
35 opened, which was, I think, in 19 -- well, I'm not sure, it was
36 -- they were put out there in 1949, it was either '56 or '61
37 was the first hunt. And it's been a drawing and it's been a
38 permit type thing, so the records are pretty conclusive on that
39 moose herd.

40
41 But I know people who have taken moose in taken moose
42 in Cordova who shared moose in Tatitlek, I mean I personally
43 know people that have done that. To a certain extent, there
44 are people in Cordova whose family lives in Tatitlek and part
45 of them lives in Cordova, they consider themselves all part of
46 the same family. They question isn't, at this point in time,
47 basically just on sharing, it's whether, you know, if there's a
48 customary and traditional hunting of the moose in Unit 6.

49
50 I would like to defer it until Don comes and hope that

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1 he had some information, you know, that would be different.
2 But at this point in time I would have to go along with staff
3 recommendation as much as I do recognize the interaction and
4 the inter sharing of the moose. That's just the way people in
5 Cordova do with moose, I mean that's -- there's a limited
6 amount of moose, they're on drawings and permits and there's
7 very few people down there that take a moose, that take a moose
8 for themselves, you know. I mean they either band together in
9 a group, go out and get it or they share in the work on it or
10 they share it when they get back to town and -- because it's a
11 very limited resource and that sharing extends to people in
12 Chenega and Tatitlek because they all have family in Cordova,
13 you know.

14
15 So that's where I'd have to leave it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Ralph. I don't think
18 there's that urgency to vote this up or down right today. I
19 tend to agree with you, I think we ought to give Mr. Kompkoff
20 an opportunity to tell us what he proposed and why. And I
21 agree with you about the statistics, the staff analysis and all
22 that.

23
24 These are transplanted moose, right? They were
25 transplanted?

26
27 MR. LOHSE: These are transplanted moose.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Fred.

30
31 MR. F. JOHN: Okay. I agree with you on the moose
32 there, but I'd like to add that -- I see the map here, the
33 people of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek did probably hunt in all
34 that area, you know, they probably had hunting ground in that
35 area and everything, but like they said, moose didn't come in
36 until 1949, so I believe that Tatitlek and Chenega did have
37 hunting and fishing subsistence in that whole region there, but
38 I don't have any evidence on moose, so I agree with the rest
39 that we just defer it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph.

42
43 MR. LOHSE: I think the analysis that's in here, the
44 historical analysis, like it points out, that in times past
45 that Chenega and Tatitlek people which are Chugach people
46 extended their territory all the way down to 6(A) then Eyaks,
47 which are Athabaskans, and Eyak -- Tlingitized Eyaks, which are
48 Athabaskans and Tlingits, basically pushed them back, so in
49 time past that's been an area of flux. Like you said, since
50 moose have been here, everything has been relatively stable.

00052

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So do we have a recommendation then?

2

3 MR. LOHSE: I recommend we defer this until Donald is
4 here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: You make that motion?

7

8 MR. LOHSE: I so move.

9

10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion, is there a second?

11

12 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion, seconded. Further
15 discussion on the motion?

16

17 (No audible responses)

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

24

25 (No opposing responses)

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. What time of the
28 day is it any way?

29

30 REPORTER: 12:39.

31

32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. We'll break for lunch then for
33 one hour. We'll take a one hour break for lunch.

34

35 (Off record - 12:39 p.m)

36

37 (On record - 1:56 p.m.)

38

39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Call the meeting back to order, since
40 we just recessed, we still have a quorum. The next proposal
41 that we're going to consider is Proposal 20. Helga.

42

43 MS. EAKON: Proposal 20 would extend the moose season
44 in Unit 7. The lead is Robert Willis.

45

46 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Helga. Roy, can you hear me
47 clearly?

48

49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, go ahead, Robert, you're on.

50

00053

1 MR. WILLIS: Okay. Proposal 20 would lengthen the
2 moose season in Unit 7 by 30 days which would extend it through
3 the 20th of October. The Council created this hunt just last
4 year, so you're all probably somewhat familiar with the
5 situation, but I'll briefly recap it for you.

6
7 The area of moose habitat down in the Kings Bay area is
8 quite small. It consists of two narrow river valleys, one
9 along the Kings River and one along the Nellie Juan River.
10 That area is pretty much isolated from other moose populations
11 so the moose that are in there don't have much interchange with
12 other areas. In order for moose to enter that area from
13 another area they would have to travel down from Paradise Lake
14 or from Nellie Juan Lake and then down the Nellie Juan River
15 for a distance of about 15 or 20 miles over difficult terrain.
16 The result is, is that moose population down there is fairly
17 small and self-sufficient, but also pretty well isolated.

18
19 Last year when we dealt with this proposal we
20 transferred some money to Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
21 do a survey for us down there, found a total of 20 moose, eight
22 were bulls, 10 were cows and only two were calves. One cow had
23 twin calves and none of the rest of the cows had any calves
24 with them. The same thing this year and we did get the money
25 transferred but unfortunately the State biologist was not able
26 to make -- we don't have an update on that number.

27
28 I think it's safe to say, though, that that number is
29 not going to vary a great deal because of the small amount of
30 habitat and because of the troubles that those animals have
31 reproducing. The fact that only one cow was able to bring
32 calves through the summer months and into the winter is pretty
33 indicative of a situation with predators down there. It's a
34 pretty restrictive area and there's a very high black bear
35 population and the black bears prey pretty heavily on moose
36 calves. So the productivity of that group of moose is going to
37 be fairly marginal at any year.

38
39 Harvest ticket data from ADF&G indicates that only one
40 moose was harvested from there since 1983, but Don Kompkoff
41 told us at the Regional Council meeting a year ago that they
42 take moose in there on a regular, if intermittent basis, they
43 just don't report them. Most of the moose harvest that's taken
44 place in there is incidental to other activities, such as
45 commercial fishing, seal hunting, goat hunting.

46
47 Our preliminary conclusion on this was to reject the
48 proposal for not extending it through the rutting period. This
49 little group of moose is pretty isolated from other groups. It
50 has low calf survival rate because of the number of predators

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1 and to extend the hunting season the end of September and into
2 October then you get into the breeding period, both the harem
3 formation period in late September and the rutting period from
4 about the 1st of October on.

5
6 To shoot a bull moose out of that group of cows in that
7 situation it takes them a few days to get established with
8 another bull and during that period of time they can cycle out
9 of estrous, they're capable of breeding for only 24 hours at a
10 time and if they cycle out the first time they don't come back
11 in again for 28 days. And that creates problems with
12 productivity, even if they do get bred the second time around
13 by another bull, the calves will be born a month later in the
14 summer and so it has less of a chance of survival.

15
16 So for those reasons we felt that it would not be wise
17 to extend the hunting season through the hunting season through
18 the rutting period and recommend rejecting this proposal.

19
20 That concludes the staff analysis.

21
22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Robert. Robert, I have a
23 question about the past count. How does that past population
24 of moose differ from this latest one here?

25
26 MR. WILLIS: The numbers I gave you are from the one
27 and only count that we have, Roy, the one that was done, I
28 believe, in January of '97. That was 20 moose, eight bulls, 10
29 cows and two calves and we tried to get another one this year,
30 either in late '97 or early '98 and we weren't able to get it
31 done, so that's the only count we have.

32
33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I guess we don't have any prior
34 information then?

35
36 MR. WILLIS: No, that was the very first time in
37 anybody's memory that that group of moose had ever been
38 counted. In the past it's been lumped in with the rest of Unit
39 7 as far as the hunting season goes and there were not a whole
40 lot of people going over there to hunt because there weren't
41 very many moose, so there was really no reason for the
42 Department of Fish and Game to go over there and conduct a
43 survey until this special hunt was created and at that time we
44 got the Forest Service to kick in some money to pay for a
45 flight over there, and they agreed to do the flight if we would
46 pay for it, so that's why we have a count in there at all.

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah. Robert, what I want to know is
49 whether the moose were on the increase or staying the same or
50 what? I guess we don't know that for sure, huh?

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1 MR. WILLIS: Well, the fact that there were only two
2 calves in that group last year indicates to me that they
3 couldn't increase very much, if any. That's a pretty limited
4 amount of habitat, it can't support very many animals and I
5 suspect they're pretty much in balance with the habitat they
6 have available because of the high rate of predation on the
7 calves.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I know we talked about this before, but
10 the habitat, how many do you think -- how many moose can be in
11 that area and still be okay?

12
13 MR. WILLIS: I couldn't answer that, Roy, without
14 knowing a little bit more about the area. We know there's not
15 much of it, a very, very narrow strip along the river, but
16 without going in there on the ground and doing a habitat survey
17 and applying some -- a moose model to it I wouldn't be able to
18 answer that question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Thank you, Robert. We'll go on
21 to other agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

22
23 MR. SELINGER: Not from the Glennallen office.

24
25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. How about other agencies, any
26 other comments?

27
28 (No audible responses)

29
30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, we'll get on to the written
31 comments.

32
33 MS. EAKON: The written comments of the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game is do not support. No one
35 registered to hunt in this season last year. The hunt should
36 be cancelled rather than extended because there are so few
37 bulls in the area. Additionally, moose in this area
38 concentrate late and would be vulnerable to overharvest in late
39 October.

40
41 And there were no written public comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Thank you. I guess we're down
44 to the public. Any public testimony here on this proposal?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, then we'll get on to Regional
49 Council recommendation and justification.

50

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1 The reason I was asking questions is I don't know too
2 much about that area, particular area, and I don't know whether
3 in my mind, whether the moose are on the increase and whether
4 there's people that hunt out there and not successful, I guess
5 that's probably all in this information that's handed to us,
6 but I didn't come across this stuff. What I'm getting at is,
7 did we have a large number of unsuccessful hunters over there?

8
9 Robert, can you hear me?

10
11 MR. WILLIS: Yes. We didn't have any reports of moose
12 harvested in that area. And I was hoping Don would be here at
13 the meeting because he knows more about who hunts in there from
14 Chenega Bay and Tatitlek than anybody else. It was reported to
15 us before that they hunted there regularly, but did report
16 their moose and that makes it a little hard for us to tell how
17 many people are going in there and trying to harvest moose.

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Any Council member want to make
20 a comment?

21
22 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Gilbert.

25
26 MR. WILLIS: You remember that that area was closed to
27 non-subsistence hunting, don't you?

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah, we're aware of that. Go ahead,
30 Gilbert.

31
32 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, I was just wondering if -- that's a
33 long season from August to October and the rutting season, I
34 don't know how many of you ever shot a moose during rutting
35 season, you can hardly eat the meat, so I agree with what the
36 staff recommends.

37
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you want to make a motion, one way
39 or another?

40
41 MR. DEMENTI: I recommend that we.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Adopt?

44
45 MR. DEMENTI:stay with that recommendation. I
46 mean, this proposal -- I mean, with August 10th through
47 September 20th. That's the existing.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I guess if we don't take any action
50 that that's the same as leaving it the way it is, right?

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1 MR. LOHSE: Right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Helga, help me here. Do we need to
4 take action one or the other or just leave it the way it is?

5

6 MS. EAKON: You should take either a positive or a
7 negative, you should either say we adopt it or reject it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. I'll entertain a motion
10 then to adopt the staff recommendations.

11

12 MR. DEMENTI: Well, I'll make a motion to reject the
13 proposal.

14

15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Well, that's what the staff
16 recommended.

17

18 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Is there a second?

21

22 MR. LOHSE: I'll second it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and seconded. Further
25 discussion on the motion?

26

27 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I'm just wondering whether it'll have
28 any effect or not, that's basically what we're dealing with,
29 it's closed to anything except subsistence hunting. The only
30 reports that we have are basically that any moose that's taken
31 there is not reported anyhow. At least if the season was
32 extended you might get a report on the moose, you know, because
33 I think this -- from what I understand about this area and from
34 what I know about that side of the Sound, which is not as much
35 as I know about the other side, for sure.

36

37 This is kind of a hunt of opportunity, in other words
38 if they're over there trapping otter and hunting seals or
39 looking for goats or something like that and they happen to
40 come across a moose, the moose is taken. As we see, it says,
41 no one -- 10 of the 20 hunters reported during a 10 year
42 period, so they're aren't very many hunters that have reported
43 taking any moose there for a long time, it's a fairly new herd,
44 too, it sounds like. And it's not a very big herd.

45

46 I wonder whether limiting the season, since it's
47 already a subsistence hunt, is going to make any difference, I
48 kind of have a feeling that there's no other pressure on there
49 except from Chenega and Tatitlek and if they're there in the
50 wintertime and there happens to be a moose available, they're

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1 probably going to take it anyhow. And at least by having a
2 lengthened season there's a possibility it might be reported to
3 get some record on it. To me it doesn't look like the area
4 actually can support much moose hunting, but it also doesn't
5 look like it gets much moose hunting, you know.

6
7 I don't know, I seconded to reject it, I really don't
8 -- I don't have any compelling information in one direction or
9 the other, it doesn't -- other than -- like it says, moose
10 harvests have place incidental to commercial fishing, seal
11 hunting or goat hunting. And it's my believe that they will
12 continue to take place incidental to seal hunting, goat hunting
13 and fishing. I mean, that's just my opinion on it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Ralph. Myself, I'll
16 agree with the staff recommendation also, just I don't think
17 it's good to extend additional 30 days mainly because the
18 moose, as somebody else pointed out, moose meat is not that
19 good after a certain time. And I see, too, that we're getting
20 into an area that's the rutting season when the moose meat is
21 not that good, and there's not that many moose over there. And
22 it seems to me like it's a good recommendation for the time
23 being and I think that maybe they can come back in the future
24 if there's some increase in moose population, maybe to extend
25 the season. Just my opinion.

26
27 MR. F. JOHN: I'll go with the staff recommendation,
28 Mr. Chairman because I don't enough information to go on. And
29 I think the season is too long. Like you said, that probably
30 goes through the rutting season. I don't know when that is
31 down there, but it might be about the same time as they have it
32 up here.

33
34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, are you ready to vote then?

35
36 (No audible responses)

37
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, all in favor of the motion say
39 aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 MR. LOHSE: The motion is to reject?

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Reject, yeah.

46
47 MR. LOHSE: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

50

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1 (No opposing responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. Proposal Number 20
4 is rejected. We'll go on to the next one.

5

6 MS. EAKON: Proposal 21 would establish a c&t
7 determination for black bear in Unit 11. And Rachel will
8 present the analysis.

9

10 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was
11 submitted by the Copper River Native Association and it asks
12 for, as Helga just said, a positive c&t determination for black
13 bear in Unit 11 for rural residents of Gulkana, Chistochina,
14 Gakona, Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Copper Center and Tazlina.

15

16 Currently there's no c&t determination for black bear
17 in Unit 11 and CRNA has let us know that the request was not
18 intended to be restrictive, that is that they proponent seeks
19 recognition that the Ahtna communities have customarily and
20 traditionally used black bear in Unit 11, but it doesn't seek
21 to limit a positive determination, only to those communities
22 named in the proposal.

23

24 And I see that now CRNA supports with the modification
25 of adding rural residents of Unit 11 as well.

26

27 We heard this morning from Cathy Dewitt and Lonnie
28 Tyone and we've heard, as well, from other sources that there
29 are a number of taboos and ritual extending to the use of
30 bears, and this is particularly true of brown bear, but it may
31 also affect the harvest information that we have about black
32 bears, just because people may be reluctant to speak about the
33 harvest.

34

35 Black bear has long been used by the Ahtna people
36 living in the Copper River basin as well as by non-Natives
37 living in the area. And it has traditionally been an important
38 source of meat to residents of the area that's affected by this
39 proposal. The CRNA proposal states that the Ahtna people
40 enjoyed black bear meat almost as much as they did moose meat.
41 And also the they prize the fat.

42

43 And we've also heard that some Ahtna people have
44 refused to eat bear, and I think that applies, particularly to
45 brown bear, but there are, again, some taboos in regard to
46 black bear as well.

47

48 With that in mind, the harvest studies that show low
49 harvests of black bear and that the Ahtna communities of
50 Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and Tazlina all

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1 reported at least some harvest in use of black bear in either
2 1982 or 1987 and those were the dates of the Division of
3 Subsistence harvest studies. The other communities in CRNA
4 request, Chitina or Cooper Center, neither of them reported any
5 black bear harvests in those years and there were also small
6 harvests reported in Kenny Lake, Glennallen and Tonsina.

7
8 But of all the communities considered in this analysis
9 the highest harvests that came up in Division of Subsistence
10 studies were reported by the communities of McCarthy and
11 Kennicott, which are called the South Wrangell Mountains in the
12 harvest studies. And there the residents harvested or reported
13 harvesting almost 28 pounds per person of black bear.

14
15 Under the current c&t -- just as an indication of the
16 use areas, under the current c&t determinations for caribou and
17 moose the residents of Unit 12 and Dot Lake are included among
18 those that have a positive c&t in Unit 11, north of the Sanford
19 River and because black bear is often taken opportunistically
20 in conjunction with moose or caribou hunting, it would follow
21 that the black bear use areas are similar to those of moose and
22 caribou. But no information was found indicating that the
23 residents of Unit 12 or Dot Lake have traditionally taken black
24 bear in Unit 11. And none of the bears that have been reported
25 taken by Tok residents, Northway, Tanacross or Dot Lake were
26 reported in that unit.

27
28 So, clearly, black bears are one of a wide variety of
29 resources that are used by the residents of the rural
30 communities in Unit 11 and the communities in Unit 13 that were
31 named in the request.

32
33 And keeping that in mind, the preliminary conclusion
34 was to adopt the proposal with modification and that would be
35 to give a positive c&t to the seven villages that were
36 requested in the proposal, but also to add the rural residents
37 of Unit 11.

38
39 The justification for that is that black bear have been
40 used since prehistoric times in the Copper River Basin, both by
41 the Ahtna Athabaskans living there and by non-Native settlers.
42 It appears that the take of bears had declined, for human
43 consumption anyway -- has declined in the Copper River Basin
44 but the residents of five of the communities that were named in
45 the request did report small harvest of black bear and although
46 the other two communities did not report subsistence harvests
47 in those studied years, they have documented through sealing
48 records harvest of black bear. So although there's an uneven
49 record, the kinship and the cultural connections among the
50 Ahtna villages in this request would support a positive c&t

00061

1 determination for all of them.

2

3 The residents of Glennallen, Tonsina and Kenny Lake,
4 although they were not named in the request, did report some
5 harvests of black bear in 1982 or 1987 but their use of a
6 smaller variety of species than most of the communities that
7 were named in the request and then the generally small amount
8 of subsistence foods harvested per capita would suggest a
9 concentration on just a few species that's not generally
10 associated with traditional harvesting. So that was one reason
11 for not including them. And, additionally, there was no
12 information found that indicated that the residents of those
13 communities had traditionally used Unit 11 for black bear.

14

15 As for residents of Unit 11, which were represented by
16 the communities of McCarthy and Kennicott, they harvest most of
17 the black bear they take in Unit 11 and they have a strong
18 record of harvesting black bears in the unit. So that was the
19 primary reason for recommending the inclusion of those. And as
20 for Unit 12 and Dot Lake, there was no information found
21 indicating that they had traditionally used black bear in Unit
22 11.

23

24 So it was striking that there was not very much
25 information available, particularly about black bears, and so I
26 included the plea that it's hoped that more specific
27 information about the community's use of bears will come
28 forward at the Regional Council meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. We're down to other agency
31 comments. Yes.

32

33 MR. SELINGER: So I just from here, is that okay.

34

35 MS. MEEHAN: No.

36

37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Up here would be better near the
38 microphone.

39

40 MR. SELINGER: Oh, okay. For the record, my name is
41 Jeff Selinger, I'm representing the Department of Fish and
42 Game. If it would please the Board and if it's within the
43 procedural guidelines I'd like to address Proposal 30 also, our
44 comments are the same for both of proposals and they both
45 affect black bears and seeing if that's alright to go ahead
46 with that.

47

48 We do not agree with not including Glennallen and Kenny
49 Lake in the subsistence recommendations for Unit 11 and 13. To
50 start with Kenny Lake residents, it's very hard to determine

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1 their use by our harvest records because many of their post
2 office boxes are registered under Copper Center. So a lot of
3 times the Copper Center reported harvest may include people
4 from Kenny Lake.

5
6 Second of all, Glennallen residents show data of taking
7 many bears in those areas and maybe it was an artifact of the
8 years that were used for the subsistence determination, but in
9 general our harvest records show that Glennallen residents take
10 -- in a general overview, if you combined all of the other
11 subsistence communities listed the Glennallen harvest alone by
12 Glennallen residents would equal that or very close to it.

13
14 Another aspect, 76 percent of the black bears taken by
15 Glennallen residents from Units 11 and 13 were used as a source
16 of meat by the Glennallen residents. This demonstrates the
17 resource -- excuse me. This demonstrates the subsistence
18 activity of the Glennallen residents who have harvested bears
19 in those areas because they are using them for meat.

20
21 We do agree, you know, it's well documented that the
22 history of the use by the Ahtna people in the region exceeds
23 that of non-Ahtna inhabitants. We do not question that,
24 however, we do oppose the exclusion of Kenny Lake and
25 Glennallen residents.

26
27 There's not a time frame on subsistence unless it is
28 necessary to allocate between subsistence users. The history
29 of the Ahtna people using the resource is much greater than
30 that of residents -- from most of the residents in Glennallen
31 and Kenny Lake. However, with a year-long season and a bag
32 limit of three bears in both units we do not feel that the
33 situation requires allocation between subsistence user groups
34 because of the liberal regulations on the bears there now.

35
36 Subsistence use of wildlife by Glennallen was
37 recognized by Congress as this community was included as a
38 subsistence community for the park. Federal review of
39 subsistence issues in Units 11 and 13 appear to consistently
40 exclude Glennallen as a subsistence community and we're not
41 sure if this was an oversight or what happened there. But by
42 excluding Glennallen as a subsistence community it goes counter
43 to conclusions drawn -- that we draw by looking at all our
44 harvest records where there is documented use of the resources
45 here.

46
47 And we'd like to also state that it goes against
48 congressional intent by excluding these communities that have
49 demonstrated and have a recorded history of using the resources
50 in those areas.

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1 Thanks.

2
3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I have a question.

4
5 MR. SELINGER: Sure.

6
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Your statistics, these are hunts in
8 Unit 11 you're talking about?

9
10 MR. SELINGER: Yes, from our harvest reports.

11
12 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. I guess that -- thank you very
13 much. Any questions?

14
15 (No audible responses)

16
17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other agency comments?

18
19 (No audible responses)

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: If not, we'll have public written
22 comments.

23
24 MS. EAKON: The recommendation of Western Interior
25 Regional Council is to support the staff recommendation with
26 the modification to include adjacent subunit with Regional 9
27 (Unit 12).

28
29 The Rainbow St. Elias National Park Subsistence
30 Resource Commission supports the proposal as written.

31
32 The Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
33 Committee supports the proposal with amendment to have a
34 positive c&t for Game Management Units 11, 12, 13(A through D)
35 and residents of Chickaloon, Dot Lake and Healy Lake, which
36 includes the Rainbow St. Elias National resident zoned
37 communities.

38
39 End of comments.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you. Any other public
42 testimony on this? Yes, Frank.

43
44 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is
45 Frank Entsminger, I'm here representing the Upper
46 Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee and here again on this
47 particular proposal we certainly, you know, recognize the
48 Copper Basin communities' c&t on black bear, but we felt that
49 through all the c&t findings and what not that Upper Tanana has
50 demonstrated c&t use for at least portions of Unit 11, not only

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1 black bear but sheep and other big game species also.

2

3 And we felt that just, you know, if a certain community
4 wanted to establish their c&t use it shouldn't just
5 automatically exclude other communities that have used the
6 resource in the past or may possibly be able to use the
7 resource in the future.

8

9 One thing to keep in mind, as far as Upper Tanana
10 communities, they've basically been excluded from the
11 regulations for quite a number of years now though the, you
12 know, the State c&t findings and then the Park Service jumping
13 on and adopting the State c&t findings, so, you know, it just
14 -- last year was the first year that Upper Tanana communities
15 could legally hunt portions of Unit 11. And certainly in the
16 immediate past history there's not going to be any record of
17 usage because it was against the law for us to use the resource
18 down there. But this is why we tried to just list the GMUs and
19 the communities that we felt are qualified users and should be
20 able to use this resources, and especially given the fact that
21 it's an abundant resource and it's not overhunted.

22

23 This is the reason for our recommendation. And I'd be
24 happy to answer any questions if you have any or whatever.
25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Frank. Any questions?

28

29 (No audible responses)

30

31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I just want everybody to know, you
32 know, we don't make changes before we consider these proposals,
33 we're not allowed to do that. We do have the opportunity now
34 to make some changes. The proposer doesn't have any obligation
35 to include any other communities other than those that they are
36 familiar with and that's probably why some of the other
37 communities were no included. Speaking for the seven villages
38 and they have the information for those seven villages, I
39 understand, and that's what they proposed. Not -- I don't
40 think it was intentional, but they don't speak for Glennallen
41 or they don't have the information.

42

43 Go ahead, Gloria.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to state that Unit 11 is not
46 traditional territory for the Upper Tanana villages. That
47 portions of Unit 12 is and that the northern part is. And I
48 kind of object to them coming down hunting in our area.

49

50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Could you speak up so everybody can

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1 hear you? Or get nearer that microphone.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I don't think they should have -- be
4 able to come in and hunt in Unit 11 because that's traditional
5 Ahtna territory, but portions of Unit 12 and the upper northern
6 part, that is their historical hunting area, so I object to
7 that, Unit 11.

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I hope everybody understood what Gloria
10 said and that is she thinks that the Upper Tanana or Eastern
11 Interior people, she didn't think had traditional use of that
12 Unit 11. Did you say except for the upper portion?

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: The upper portion of Unit 12.

15

16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah. You kind of agree with that,
17 Frank?

18

19 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, basically during the -- you
20 know, last year when some of the c&ts were established for Unit
21 12 residents, most of the designations have been set north of
22 the Sanford River. And, you know, I'm relatively certain that
23 Upper Tanana residents are willing to look at that as a
24 boundary line for their usage. Certainly most of the people
25 that did use that resource did it in that particular area.

26

27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Frank. Is there any
28 other public testimony first? yes.

29

30 MR. SELINGER: This is Jeff Selinger with the
31 Department of Fish and Game once again. And I apologize if I
32 -- if it came across, I wasn't trying to accuse anybody of
33 anything. It's just something that we've noticed, kind of a
34 consistent pattern and our harvest records show that people
35 from communities, basically surrounded by the communities
36 listed in the proposal it's come to our attention that
37 Glennallen was just consistently left out and we weren't trying
38 to accuse anybody of slight of hand work or anything improper
39 by any means.

40

41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thanks. We're down to Regional
42 Council recommendations. Any comments? Yes, Ralph.

43

44 MR. LOHSE: I guess I'll start it off. I was happy to
45 see Gloria's recommendation earlier that rural residents of
46 Unit 11 be included in it because having lived up there and
47 knowing a lot of people up there, I know that bear was, when I
48 came 30 years ago, and is today a very important part of the
49 local food supply, especially since moose seasons are what they
50 are. Many of my neighbors can bear meat and things like that

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1 just to have some meat for the rest of the year.

2

3 I also know that people that I know in the Kenny Lake
4 area and Glennallen area do the same thing. I guess for me to
5 support this -- I don't know anything about the Upper Tanana or
6 Tok area so I can't speak to that, but I would think that in
7 Unit 11, and from who I see out there when I'm out there. And
8 again, I'm dealing basically with Unit 11 up the Chitina River
9 Valley and on the road system and that there. I find people
10 from Unit 13 and Unit 11 hunting up there.

11

12 And I would have to -- if I would determine that all
13 rural residents in Unit 11 were eligible for c&t finding for
14 black bear in Unit 11, I'd almost have to find that all rural
15 residents of Unit 13 were eligible for c&t findings because I
16 know many rural residents in Unit 13 who have taken bear in
17 Unit 11, at least in the section of Unit 11 that I know, for
18 food. I also don't see any contradiction in that either.
19 Basically like Roy said, when somebody puts a proposal like
20 this in, they put the proposal in to include those that they
21 know and they know about, they're putting it in to exclude
22 anyone and Gloria said the same thing. In fact, it's been said
23 a number of times, the proposal was not put in to exclude
24 people.

25

26 From that standpoint, I would have to say that there's
27 a c&t finding for the rural residents of Unit 13 and Unit 11 in
28 Unit 11, simply from the people that I know that have used
29 them. I can remember talking to Susie Brickle in Chitina when
30 I first came and I don't know, this is kind of something -- we
31 talked about bear hunting at that time and Susie was one of the
32 ones that, from her background, she -- her family didn't take
33 bear, bear was taboo to her, but bear definitely was taken, you
34 know, in time past by the members of the Ahtna people, so
35 there's no argument at all there. It just that bear has been a
36 traditional food source from the time that there has been
37 people in that area, both Native and non-Native. And so I'd
38 have to say both Native and non-Native rural residents of Unit
39 11 and Unit 13 have a c&t finding in Unit 11 because I've see
40 them there, I've talked with them and I know that they've taken
41 the animal.

42

43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Along those lines I do have a question.
44 I think we do have some requirement for residency, right? Or
45 do we?

46

47 MS. MASON: We don't have a time limit.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'm just trying to figure out if
50 somebody can move out here for a couple of months and be

00067

1 eligible?

2

3 MR. BOYD: Well, from what the regulation say is that
4 their primary permanent home must be in the region.

5

6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

7

8 MR. BOYD: In other words, if they move out here, they
9 must establish this as their primary permanent home. It can't
10 be just move in, occupy a cabin or something like that
11 temporarily and then move away. Now, in saying that, I'm not
12 saying that there aren't loopholes that people can get by with.
13 I think we're trying to close some of those loopholes in future
14 regulations. We haven't dealt with them yet. I don't think
15 the problem is very large problem in that regard, but
16 technically they must have their primary residence in the
17 region or in the c&t communities that identify.

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any further discussion by
20 the Council members?

21

22 MR. F. JOHN: I got this -- sometime I sit up here and
23 look at the people that put their time in telling about their
24 traditional, their custom, all the -- I think they -- you know,
25 if they do it right then they get their hunting and everything.
26 And I just saw the one we turned down a while ago because there
27 was no information, you know. I'd like to see information on
28 that, I'd like to see their traditional hunting. Here I could
29 see a lot of -- what did you say, a lot of bear have been
30 taken? Who take it? Is it local or sports or Outside hunters
31 or who? I mean tell me that. Because the villages, when we
32 started here, you know, we didn't have anything really written
33 up and all of a sudden is that you have to have these things
34 documented, written up and everything and then CRNA started
35 that and all of a sudden it seems like we don't have to have it
36 any more. And I'm having a problem with just going on and
37 saying, hey, let's give it all here, the whole fun shop, you
38 know, moose, caribou, sheep, everything, you know.

39

40 And I don't know is it -- Native people like their
41 documentation, they write it down because this time we need it
42 in our record. And then does Kenny Lake, Glennallen, are they
43 above that or something? That's what I want to know. Answer
44 me that, please.

45

46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Go head, Jeff.

47

48 MR. SELINGER: I might be able to help you a little
49 bit, Fred.

50

00068

1 MS. MEEHAN: Would you go up to the mike, please.

2

3 MR. SELINGER: On the State run hunts we have on our
4 harvest report cards that everybody is required to fill in
5 whether they were successful at their hunt or not. We -- they
6 have to record they community of principal residence or their
7 mailing address, so we do have -- the State does have available
8 a lot of the documentation of where these people -- where their
9 home residence was when they hunted these areas.

10

11 MR. F. JOHN: I got ask question. You work for the
12 State?

13

14 MR. SELINGER: Yes.

15

16 MR. F. JOHN: You represent Glennallen?

17

18 MR. SELINGER: Yes. Well, I work -- I actually live in
19 Tazlina, but I work in the Glennallen office for Fish and Game.

20

21 MR. F. JOHN: I was just wondering because Frank
22 Entsminger usually is here represent the Upper Tanana, he bring
23 in documents and he brings them, you know, and I really -- I
24 would like that. That's what I'm talking about.

25

26 MR. SELINGER: Sure, I mean, I could make that
27 available.

28

29 MR. F. JOHN: And I haven't seen Glennallen really come
30 in here and say, you know, for a long time. And that's what
31 I'm trying to say. I just want to see something on paper.

32

33 MR. SELINGER: Okay. I have some stuff with me right
34 now for.....

35

36 MR. F. JOHN: (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)
37 I'm not trying to cause any kind of.....

38

39 MR. SELINGER: Oh, no, no.

40

41 MR. F. JOHN: It just seems like we're going left and
42 right here, up and down, you know, that the Natives have
43 documents -- like they told us one time, we don't have any
44 written document or nothing, all of a sudden we start coming up
45 with document and then like Kenny Lake don't have nothing and
46 we're going to make recommendation on them or Glennallen or
47 some area. I'm just bringing up those questions because I see
48 some, you know, back and forth things going on.

49

50 MR. SELINGER: Sure, I'll be.....

00069

1 MR. F. JOHN: I'm not against Glennallen or doing that
2 -- I think that they should be able to hunt in -- because
3 they're in the area.

4
5 MR. SELINGER: Sure, I can bring you whatever you like.
6 I can make all of that available to you as you would like it.

7
8 MR. F. JOHN: That's all I want, I mean.....

9
10 MR. SELINGER: You bet.

11
12 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Go ahead, Ralph.

13
14 MR. LOHSE: I guess maybe I got the wrong understanding
15 of what you said before, but I was under the impression that
16 you had documentation that the people in Glennallen took and
17 used bear for food and the people in Kenny Lake took and used
18 bear for food, people in Slana took and used bear for food.
19 That these were -- that these came right off of Fish and Game
20 records or subsistence questionnaires.

21
22 MR. SELINGER: That is correct. It's right on the
23 sealing form for -- the State requires black bears and brown
24 bears to be seals. And right on the sealing form it asks --
25 there is one question that fills out that asks, if meat was
26 taken -- if meat was salvaged from the bear.

27
28 MR. LOHSE: Okay.

29
30 MR. SELINGER: And that is right on our sealing
31 certificates.

32
33 MR. LOHSE: And from what I understood before, that
34 McCarthy, Kennicott and Glennallen actually have some of the
35 highest per capita use of bear meat?

36
37 MR. SELINGER: Correct. According to our records.

38
39 MR. LOHSE: According to your records, okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: But isn't that under sport hunting?

42
43 MR. SELINGER: That's correct. And you know, we don't
44 -- we realize that, you know, I mean the State system has only
45 been in place for a certain number of a years. It only goes
46 back so far. And in the areas, I'm sure there was bear used
47 prior to the State recording it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So the State of Alaska does not have
50 subsistence bear hunting right now over there?

00070

1 MR. SELINGER: No. Right now there's currently a three
2 bear per year in Unit -- black bear.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Sports hunting.

5
6 MR. SELINGER:for sport hunting for Unit 11 and
7 13, and the season's opened year-round.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you. Any other comments?
10 Are we ready to recommend by motion? What I guess Fred was
11 saying is that he'd like to have more information when you do
12 want to include additional communities such as Glennallen. I
13 guess he sees that as a requirement before. I mean we all said
14 lets postpone it until we get additional information. I guess
15 what Fred is getting at is that it's dropped on you at a
16 meeting and it's hard to act on right there without taking time
17 to consider.....

18
19 MR. SELINGER: I have the numbers if you're interested.

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN:everything. Yeah.

22
23 MR. SELINGER: I do have them with me if you're
24 interested.

25
26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah. I think, if I'm correct, it will
27 be open at communities, right?

28
29 MR. F. JOHN: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: This is not going to close it?

32
33 MS. MASON: Yeah, but right now there's no
34 determination so it's open to all rural residents.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I mean if we make a determination for
37 these seven villages, it's still open for others to be added in
38 the future is what my.....

39
40 MS. MASON: Under State harvest, yes. But there would
41 be a subsistence priority on Federal lands for the communities
42 that are named in the c&t determination.

43
44 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So I'm wrong? It would close off
45 adding in the future?

46
47 MS. MASON: Yes. It would restrict other communities.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Yes, Ralph.

50

00071

1 MR. LOHSE: I think, you know, we were talking about
2 information, and that's where I was getting my information to a
3 certain extent. If you look on Pages 58 and 59, it talks about
4 different communities, the take of black bear, pounds used per
5 year. If we take a look on Page 61, it's got percent of total
6 harvest in Unit 11 and where it came from, total black bear
7 harvested. And again, we're dealing with -- we have Gulkana
8 and Kenny Lake and neither one of them reported anything.
9 Mentasta Lake didn't. Glennallen reported. Chitina reported.
10 Chistochina reported. When we look at the information that we
11 have, we find that -- to me what we find is that all the rural
12 communities of Unit 11 and Unit 13 end up making use of black
13 bear in Unit 11. Some more or less than others. And again,
14 like you said before, we can go back and feel like that the
15 Ahtna people were there for a lot longer and used it a lot
16 longer, but the current communities that are there, all of them
17 make use in Unit 11. And it's hard for me to find a -- it's
18 hard for me to find a finding that leaves somebody else out
19 when there's written -- you know, we have -- they did their
20 homework and they've got the evidence here that shows that it
21 was made use of.

22
23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph, the question is not whether we
24 have these statistics for sports hunting, that's where they got
25 these statistics from. My question in my mind is what parts of
26 those numbers are real subsistence hunters and users, you know.
27 That was my question. In my mind I'm not really clear. Being
28 familiar with Natives in Native communities in the Copper River
29 Basin, I totally agree with the proposal that's written by
30 CRNA. Those communities, I know go back hundreds of years
31 using black bear. I have no question in my boyhood when I was
32 small, it was very common to eat black bear meat and use the
33 black bear skins and do all that stuff. But you know, it's
34 getting less and less now.

35
36 I think that the statistics, I just want to point out
37 that statistic you're looking at is probably 50 percent or more
38 of these people just get the bear for a trophy, you know, a rug
39 or something. They're not real subsistence. That's just what
40 I wanted to point out.

41
42 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, that's totally possible. But
43 although like I said, from my experience out in Unit 11, most
44 of the people that live there, if they take a bear, they take
45 it for one reason and that's because there's not other meat
46 available. And it fills in the gap.

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Do we want to make a motion one
49 way or another to act on? Doesn't anybody want to make a
50 motion?

00072

1 MR. F. JOHN: This one is the villages plus rural
2 residents of Unit 11, I'll make a motion to adopt Proposal 21
3 plus the rural residents of Unit 11 for a positive
4 determination.

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

7
8 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second, further
11 discussion on the motion.

12
13 MR. DEMENTI: That's to add rural residents of 11.

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Could we quickly repeat what is
16 being recommended? This is just Staff recommendation, right,
17 what the motion is?

18
19 MS. MASON: Right. It follows the Staff
20 recommendation. The seven villages requested in the proposal
21 plus the residents of Unit 11 would have positive c&t for black
22 bear in Unit 11.

23
24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any further discussion on the motion?

25
26 MR. F. JOHN: So right now what this would do is -- it
27 will be just for -- like I was going to say, you know, if
28 there'd be an amendment on this one, I'd be glad to change
29 mine.

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'm waiting for somebody to propose an
32 amendment.

33
34 MR. F. JOHN: I'll adopt the Staff recommendation and
35 if there's an amendment or whatever, you know, we'll change it.
36 I think Ralph brought up something.

37
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you want to amend it?

39
40 MR. LOHSE: I can't make an amendment without making it
41 probably broader than it should be. And again, I'm not
42 disagreeing with the -- I'm definitely not disagreeing with the
43 customary and traditional for the seven communities and the
44 rural residents of Unit 11 because I do know that they all make
45 use of it. I don't -- I guess when I look at it, I probably
46 don't want to make it for all the rural residents in Unit 13
47 because that's a pretty broad proposal. I just know that the
48 residents that are in close proximity in Unit 11 make use of it
49 whether they live in the Native communities or whether they
50 live in the other communities. We have had -- we have

00073

1 information in front of us on Glennallen and Kenny Lake, and I
2 suppose what I could do is, at this point in time, I could add
3 -- I'll make an amendment to add a positive c&t for black bear
4 in Unit 11 for the seven Native communities, the rural
5 residents of Unit 11 and the rural residents of Unit 13 from
6 Glennallen to Chitina.

7
8 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. There's a motion. Let me ask
9 you to clarify the motion. You said you're not including the
10 full unit, are you?

11
12 MR. LOHSE: No.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: We're talking about communities,
15 Glennallen and Kenny Lake?

16
17 MR. LOHSE: Basically Glennallen, Kenny Lake and the
18 rural residents that live in between them.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I just want to be clear that you're
21 just adding Glennallen and Kenny Lake?

22
23 MR. LOHSE: Right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Is there a second to the motion?

26
27 MR. F. JOHN: I second that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a second to the motion.
30 Further discussion on the motion. I just want to comment that
31 we're leaving out the upper Tanana, they want to be included in
32 this. I don't know how we deal with it.

33
34 MR. LOHSE: We can have a second proposal. They could
35 also put a proposal in with a delineation line where they want
36 to have it. Do you understand what I mean, Frank, basically
37 you were talking about the Sanford River as the cutoff or
38 something. That proposal could come in at a future date.

39
40 MR. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Ralph, I suspected
41 that that's probably what we'd have to do in this instance.
42 Next year we're probably have to, you know, dig up the data and
43 submit a separate proposal from upper Tanana and we can deal
44 with it in that manner. The only thing I think, it's
45 unfortunate that hunting this fall upper Tanana residents,
46 while sheep hunting might run into a bear or something and not
47 be able to take it.

48
49 MR. LOHSE: That shouldn't be a problem because we're
50 not -- according to what we're dealing with right here, we're

00074

1 not dealing with a species that is in short supply so that it
2 won't effect the regular bear season. This sets a customary
3 and traditional for bear, but it doesn't close bear season.

4

5 MR. ENTSMINGER: No, that's correct. But I was
6 referring to like Unit 11 in the Park.

7

8 MR. LOHSE: Oh, in the Park itself.

9

10 MR. ENTSMINGER: In the Park itself.

11

12 MR. LOHSE: Yeah.

13

14 MR. ENTSMINGER: If people were down there. Which, you
15 know, a good portion of Unit 11 is in the Park.

16

17 MR. LOHSE: Right.

18

19 MR. ENTSMINGER: We will come back with a proposal next
20 year and maybe clean it up in that manner.

21

22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Frank.

23

24 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: But keep in mind that there is Council
27 members concerned, including myself, about making it too broad,
28 like Unit 11 or 12 or something like that.

29

30 MR. ENTSMINGER: Sure. Absolutely.

31

32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I think we ought to have it by
33 community or something like that.

34

35 MR. ENTSMINGER: Concise as possible.

36

37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah, right.

38

39 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are you prepared to vote on the
42 amendment? All those in favor of the amendment to the motion
43 say aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

00075

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. We'll move on to
2 the main motion then. The main motion then will -- do you want
3 to read that then how it would read, Ralph.

4
5 MR. LOHSE: Unit 11, customary and traditional, rural
6 residents of Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona,
7 Gulkana, Mentasta, Tazlina, Glennallen, Kenny Lake, and the
8 rural residents of Unit 11.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are we ready to vote on the main
11 motion? All in favor say aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. The proposal was
20 amended to adopt. We'll go on to the next proposal, Helga.

21
22 MS. EAKON: Rachel Mason will present the analysis on
23 Proposal 22, which would establish a c&t determination for
24 brown bear in Unit 11.

25
26 MS. MASON: Thank you. This one was also submitted by
27 the Copper River Native Association. It requests a positive
28 and traditional use determination for brown bear in Unit 11 for
29 the residents of the Ahtna villages of Chistochina, Chitina,
30 Copper Center, Gulkana, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and Tazlina.
31 And currently there is no subsistence determination for brown
32 bear in Unit 11. This is one of a number of proposals that
33 have come in from CRNA about black bears or brown bears.

34
35 I think this is the species that Kathy Dewitt and
36 Lonnie Tyone were primary referring to when they talked about
37 the taboos surrounding brown bears, and that's what makes the
38 brown bears very difficult to assess in terms of the customary
39 and traditional uses. Many people may be reluctant to talk
40 about their harvest of bear or even mentioning the bears name.
41 It appears clear that brown bear has traditionally been a great
42 ritual importance to the Ahtna's who are indigenous to the
43 copper River Basin. However, it's very difficult to find out
44 how much bear meat contributes to the diet of the residents of
45 the region, and it appears that overall it contributes little
46 in terms of human consumption. From the harvest studies that
47 have been done, small harvests of brown bear have been reported
48 by a few communities in Unit 11 and also in Unit 13 along the
49 Copper River. No use or harvest of brown bear were reported by
50 the residents of Mentasta Lake or Chistochina in 1982 or 1987.

00076

1 Although a small percentage of Chistochina households reported
2 attempting to harvest brown bear in '87.

3
4 So according to the subsistence studies, of all the
5 communities that are included in this proposal, only Gulkana
6 and Tazlina reported harvesting any brown bears for human
7 consumption during those years and that -- the indication for
8 that would be in the ADF&G Division of Subsistence studies, the
9 pounds per person, that would indicate that that was eaten.
10 That the bear was taken for human consumption. And some of the
11 other communities, including McCarthy Road and the south
12 Wrangell Mountain communities, McCarthy and Kennicott reported
13 some harvests of brown bear in 1987 but the bears that they
14 took were specified not eaten. And we also heard in public
15 testimony this morning and have heard before from Mr. John,
16 that members of some kinship groups eat -- Ahtna groups eat
17 brown bear and others do not. So in terms of the residents of
18 Unit 12 and Dot Lake, no information was found indicating that
19 they have traditionally taken brown bear in Unit 11. In fact,
20 no brown bear harvests have been reported for Dot Lake or
21 Tetlin since the 1960s.

22
23 The preliminary conclusion was not to support the
24 proposal. And that this is because, although it's clear that
25 brown bears have historically been harvested by the Ahtna as
26 well as by non-Native migrants to the region, it appears that
27 few, if any, of the brown bears that have been taken in recent
28 years have been for human consumption. And having no
29 indication that the bears that are taken today continue to be
30 used for human consumption, then -- that was the
31 recommendation. But it should also be recognized that since
32 because of the rituals and secrecy around brown bears, some
33 have not been reported, that it's possible there are some
34 elders who desire brown bear meat whereas the younger
35 generation, for example, don't want brown bear. So in this
36 case the recommendation was on the conservative side, but
37 recognizing that more information may come forward that does
38 provide some specifics about people being interested in
39 harvesting brown bears to eat.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any comments from other
42 agencies?

43
44 MR. SELINGER: Thank you, MR. Chair, this is Jeff
45 Selinger with the Department of Fish and Game again. And this
46 pretty much echoes the previous one. We do have documentation,
47 you know, if it is found for traditional use of brown bears in
48 those areas, customary and traditional use, Glennallen is well
49 represented in the harvest data we have. For instance, in
50 1989, we have a total of 12 bears that were reported to us as

00077

1 harvested in Unit 11. And of those five of the bears harvested
2 were from non-residents. One bear from a person in Anchorage,
3 one from a person in Fairbanks, one from a person in Valdez and
4 four from residents of Glennallen is an indication that they do
5 have a tradition of using brown bears in that area.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any other agency comments?
10 Any written public comments?

11
12 MS. EAKON: The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
13 Subsistence Resource Commission supports the proposal as
14 written, stating that tradition recognizes that there are other
15 qualified subsistence users that should be granted positive
16 c&t. Tentative comment. End of comments.

17
18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Anybody from the public want to
19 testify? Yes, Frank.

20
21 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to
22 testify as a hunter, as a person that uses the resource. I
23 realize that different people have different ideas about
24 whether bears should be eaten or not. In fact, you know, what
25 the bears actually been eating a lot of times determines
26 whether it's an edible bear or not. But I know that grizzly
27 bear has served our family as a meat source when sometimes we
28 couldn't get a moose, you shoot a really fat fall berry eating
29 bear and they're delicious. I mean they're just very good
30 eating. And I can't see any reason why they shouldn't be
31 considered as a subsistence animal and be able to be harvested
32 along with the other big game animals.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Frank. Any other public
37 testimony? Now, we're down to the Regional Council
38 recommendation and justification. We're short a couple of
39 members.

40
41 MR. F. JOHN: Did you guys recommend against this?

42
43 MS. MASON: Yes.

44
45 MR. F. JOHN: I see on the discussion part that in 1998
46 said that on the CRNA proposal, I think I was there when it was
47 said, CRNA seeks recognition that the Ahtna communities have
48 customarily and traditionally used brown bear in Unit 11, but
49 does not seek to limit a positive determination only to those
50 communities named in the proposal. So I'd just like to throw

00078

1 that out.

2

3 Myself, I believe that the brown bear should be hunted
4 for customary and traditional use, subsistence use. I just got
5 another -- I talked to the elders in Mentasta and I found out
6 that a long time ago they used bear for sport hunting before
7 the White people came. One of my grandpa or uncle, his name is
8 (Native), they have what they call a bear spear, about that
9 short, a small one, like that, and they usually go out -- these
10 people, all they do is they hunt bear. I mean that's their
11 pastime. They use it for meat and whatever they had to use for
12 clothing, for jewelry and everything, but (Native), I guess his
13 head and neck is about the same thing, it was huge, but he was
14 the best bear fighter, and there were other people, too, that
15 do that for sports and for killing a bear. So I just want to
16 throw that in, and I just found that out. I heard it a long
17 time ago but I never thought about that, just one of the ways
18 of hunting bears. Hunting brown bear, you know, it was a
19 special time, it was something to show courage and everything,
20 it was a long time ago. I wouldn't do it right now, not with a
21 spear like that.

22

23 I think down in your area it was the same way, right,
24 Ida?

25

26 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes, but it wasn't considered sport.
27 It was a ritual. A very significant ritual, but it wasn't
28 sport.

29

30 MR. F. JOHN: I guess, ritual, yeah, I didn't know what
31 to call it so I called it sport. But it was something where
32 unique for people to go out -- special people go out there and
33 hunt brown bear. I would vote on this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other comments from the Council
36 members? Ralph.

37

38 MR. LOHSE: It's kind of interesting what Fred was
39 saying, because when I lived out in the Peninsula and taught
40 school out there, one of the men in our village was exactly the
41 same kind of man that you're talking about. He was considered
42 a bear hunter and his idea of hunting bear came from the time
43 when they used spears. He used a gun, but he still used the
44 gun just exactly like you'd use a spear, he would be -- he
45 would take his brown bear about three feet, and put himself in
46 the position to do it. I'm also one of the few people here
47 that's eaten much brown bear because we didn't have much meat
48 out there where I taught school. The caribou were hard to get
49 and the moose were just coming into the area. And
50 traditionally the food of the people out there was seal and

00079

1 brown bear. And we took brown bear the winter I was there for
2 food for the village. And brown bear off the berry patches are
3 good, but you know, brown bear off of a fish creek after it's
4 been hanging for a little while, is just as good. You really
5 can't tell much difference. So I know that brown bear is used
6 for food. I've eaten it for food. I also know that it's not
7 commonly done today in Unit 11 and Unit 13. Bear are taken,
8 most of the times for nuisance purposes or self-defense or
9 sport hunting like Roy was saying where somebody comes in just
10 to get the hide.

11
12 I'm kind of like Frank, I look at the brown bear out
13 there and I know that if I was raising a family out there and
14 there was no moose in the cache and no grouse to hang up and
15 the rabbit population was low, we'd take a brown bear and eat
16 it. They are a food source, and I can understand the Ahtna
17 Native villages wanting to have access to that too if times are
18 hard. You know, but the what and where and how do we -- you
19 know, how do we do it? How do we -- like Gloria said, how do
20 we include, without excluding? How do we recognize that, you
21 know, none of us are going to do it unless we need to do it,
22 but if we need to do it, many of us would end up taking one for
23 food. And that goes for the rural people in Unit 11 and it
24 goes for the Native villages in Unit 13, and it probably goes
25 for the people in Kenny Lake and Glennallen also.

26
27 To my way of thinking, if we were going to find a
28 positive and customary for brown bear in Unit 11 based on the
29 information that we have, I would have to include the same
30 people that I included on black bear. I would think that the
31 use would be the same, the access would be the same. And I
32 just don't know if I have enough data to make that kind of --
33 you know, the information that's given to us, we don't have
34 much data about current use and yet we all recognize it as an
35 animal that people who actually live there that aren't coming
36 out to go sport hunting don't go out of their way to get the
37 brown bear, whether they're Native or non-Native. But if they
38 were hungry, it'd be nice to have access to that animal for
39 food. It makes an awful nice roast.

40
41 Ida's got something to say.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

44
45 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me. Ida Hildebrand, Federal
46 Staff Committee member. And Fred's comment to me jarred my
47 memory and perhaps some of what your Council is struggling with
48 is who uses and doesn't use. In my area, brown bear is of
49 extreme ritualistic and spiritual importance. And there are
50 restrictions on who may eat it, especially on women. Women of

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1 a certain age group may not eat brown bear. They may prepare
2 it, and eat it at a different time in their lives. So there is
3 uses that come in at different times of their lives. And brown
4 bear in my area is a subsistence food, but it has high
5 spiritual and ceremonial significance for potlatches and other
6 ceremonies. And it is especially important to male members of
7 my tribe. So that use varies in my own region and from what
8 I've heard here today, in your region. And I agree with Ralph,
9 that the same people who use black bear probably also use brown
10 bear. And if there was concern of overharvest in your
11 recommended c&t you could make some stipulations about the use.
12 But as Ralph said, people don't just naturally go out and kill
13 bear just because they have c&t, and I agree with that.

14
15 Thank you, for taking my comments out of order.

16
17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I think it was very timely. We need
18 comments like that. This is very tough for me. This is an
19 area I come from. On one hand I would not want to see, you
20 know, people that had clear, in my mind, clear subsistence uses
21 of a species be denied that in the future. It just doesn't sit
22 well with me. I know that the Ahtna people probably have more
23 -- if it was written back 100 years, have more -- could
24 document more than anybody else subsistence uses of all the
25 species. Back 50, 100 years ago, we had to use everything and
26 everything was used, a lot of times, opportunistically because
27 you didn't see brown bear every day. When you saw a brown
28 bear, you used it, and I know that for a fact. To deny
29 subsistence uses of species in the future kind of bothers me,
30 especially for these communities that just made this proposal.
31 Then again, on the other hand I see that there is not that much
32 use at the present time of brown bear. So I'm kind of caught
33 in a dilemma of which way I should recommend here. My gut
34 feeling is to include additional communities if necessary, but
35 go along with this proposal.

36
37 We could, I guess one of the things that we have an
38 option of doing and that's to postpone this until we gather
39 additional information. But I have enough information in my
40 opinion.

41
42 MR. DEMENTI: Well, myself I come, originally from the
43 Yukon. And there's a lot of black bear being used in the
44 Yukon, you know. And because there is, like our tradition,
45 like Ida said, I don't know about brown bears because in my
46 area, when I was growing up they didn't have any. But brown
47 bear is coming into the area now and I don't know if the people
48 use it. But I know they use black bear, they still use a lot
49 of black bear for subsistence. And with this -- like Roy said,
50 it's hard to make up my mind about the brown bear.

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, Gloria. Are you done Gilbert?

2
3 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, come on up to the mic Gloria.

6
7 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to state that people don't,
8 again, they don't always report what they take. They're afraid
9 to. I mean to have to seal these bears under State
10 regulations, I mean they're not going to report that. They're
11 probably afraid of getting in trouble. And I just want to
12 state that you have eight criteria to go by, taken into current
13 use as well as historical. You shouldn't be trying to decide
14 which one's more important, because they're all important.

15
16 MR. F. JOHN: I want to make one more comment, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: You know, Mentasta, at my uncle's place
22 and everything, you know, bear come down there every spring and
23 we had to shoot them. For awhile there, you know, they
24 reported it and everything and the State Fish and Game just
25 come and, boom, take it away, then we don't have nothing you
26 know. Kill a bear there in the yard in the spring and the Fish
27 and Game take it away. So eventually they don't -- most people
28 don't report it anymore. I mean there's a lot of bear in
29 Mentasta. A lot of bear I see. As I said before, I think I'd
30 like to vote on this today and I'm going to vote for it.

31
32 Like Ralph said, I'd like to add the communities he
33 mentioned in that. And another thing, I'd like to say, Frank,
34 I visit him all the time, that's all he eats at his house, he
35 never eats no steak or nothing. But he goes out and he hunts,
36 I appreciate him coming down here and talking to us, you know,
37 from the upper Tanana region, because they really do need a
38 representative up there. There are people that are kind of
39 like religious down there and I appreciate that Frank.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Ralph.

42
43 MR. LOHSE: I'd like to echo something Fred just said
44 there, because knowing people out in the bush and this is not a
45 derogatory or anything like that, black bear is open all year-
46 round, there's no problem reporting the take of black bear.
47 Brown bear is not open all year-round. The brown bear that
48 comes into your yard gets into your garden or that you run into
49 on the trail in back of your house that you end up shooting and
50 making use of, it's a big pain in the neck to report it to the

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1 Fish and Game. Because if you report it to the Fish and Game
2 you don't get to make use of it. You have the responsibility
3 to skin it out and turn it into the Fish and Game and all of
4 the rest of that. And I'll just say that it's extremely common
5 in the bush that brown bear don't get reported, because they
6 don't always necessarily get shot during the time of the year
7 that they're available for hunting. That's not condoning it,
8 that's not saying that that's the way it should be, but that's
9 just a fact of life.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah, that brings up another point.
12 And I know that we've talked about this before, and that is why
13 are not the villages that are listed here in this proposal
14 getting a lot of brown bear and that's probably one of the
15 reasons is that restriction on hunting. They don't just go out
16 to hunt brown bear, but if they see a brown bear they'll hunt
17 it, as I said earlier. And the other reason is probably
18 accessibility. I mean a lot of the non-Native people use
19 airplanes and other means to get out there and the local Native
20 people don't have that many airplanes to get out there. That's
21 probably the other reason why there's low numbers reported of
22 take.

23
24 MR. LOHSE: There's one other reason that the number's
25 so low and that's the fact that brown bear, you have to buy a
26 brown bear tag and you have to do it prior to taking the brown
27 bear. You don't anymore?

28
29 MR. SELINGER: Not in 13.

30
31 MR. LOHSE: Not in 13, how about 11?

32
33 MR. SELINGER: Yes.

34
35 MR. LOHSE: In Unit 11 you do. And again, most of the
36 brown bear that I know of that get shot get shot in people's
37 yards. You know, they're not shot by somebody flying out into
38 the background or going out hunting for brown bear, they're
39 shot because the brown bear's there on their doorstep or eating
40 out of their dog food bowl or tipping over the garbage or into
41 the garden. And tags and reporting systems don't necessarily
42 lend themselves to subsistence uses and bush people.

43
44 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Do we have a recommendation.

45
46 MR. LOHSE: I'll make a motion, do you want me to?

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

49
50 MR. LOHSE: I'll make the motion that we find customary

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1 and traditional for brown bear using the same.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Communities.

4
5 MR. LOHSE:communities as we used for black bear.

6
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

8
9 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. Any
12 further discussion on the motion?

13
14 MR. LOHSE: And this is in Unit 11.

15
16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

17
18 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Question's called -- well, hang on a
21 minute, I guess Rachel, you have a comment or a question?

22
23 MS. MASON: Mr. Chairman, excuse me for intruding on
24 the process. But I just wondered if you, both times have
25 deliberately excluded Tonsina, because in the last one, the
26 black bear one, Tonsina was not included in your motion?

27
28 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chairman, I thought the way my motion
29 read the first time that it was the communities from Glennallen
30 to Chitina.

31
32 MS. MASON: Oh, and that would include Tonsina in it.

33
34 MR. LOHSE: And that would have included Tonsina.

35
36 MS. MASON: Okay.

37
38 MR. LOHSE: And the rural residents in that area.

39
40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Tonsina is a suburb of Kenny Lake.

41
42 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, or Chitina or.....

43
44 MS. MASON: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that.

45
46 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. I did not mean to exclude or
47 delineate certain communities, I mean that area from Glennallen
48 to Chitina and that would include Kenny Lake and Tonsina.

49
50 MS. MASON: Okay, thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are we ready to vote? All in favor of
2 the motion say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: The motion is carried. We'll go on
11 then to the next proposal. Do you want to take a break here?

12
13 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, a five minute break.

16
17 (Off record - 3:23 p.m.)

18
19 (On record - 3:35 p.m.)

20
21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'll call the meeting back to order.
22 We're going on to the next proposal, Helga.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Proposal 23 would close the season for
25 Mentasta Caribou Herd in Unit 11. Carl Mitchell, wildlife
26 biologist from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the
27 presenter.

28
29 MR. MITCHELL: My name is Carl Mitchell, I'm the
30 wildlife biologist with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.
31 Proposal 23 originated with the National Park Service. The
32 proposal is to close the current Federal registration hunt for
33 Mentasta caribou in Game Management Unit 11. The current
34 regulation states that one bull is available by Federal
35 registration permit only. Up to 15 permits may be issued.

36
37 The Mentasta Caribou Herd management plan calls for
38 closing the Federal subsistence hunt when the two year running
39 mean calf recruitment falls below 80. In the two most recent
40 years, '96 and '97, calf recruitment was estimated at 59 and
41 23, respectively. This yields a running two year mean of only
42 41 calves, well below the target specified by the plan for
43 closing the hunt.

44
45 The Mentasta Caribou Herd cooperative management plan
46 was signed off in 1995 and provides for certain biological
47 triggers for management of the herd. The triggers have to do
48 with the size of the herd, the bull/cow ratios and the calf
49 recruitment. Harvest has been light in the two years since
50 it's been open. In 1996 there were 15 permits available and

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1 only one illegal animal was harvested. There is a correction
2 to the current proposal in the book. We just found out that in
3 1997 there were only 12 permits issued, not 15. And to date,
4 one bull has been reported harvested, not the 15 and one that
5 is currently in there.

6
7 The impacts to the Mentasta Caribou Herd are that we
8 will not be harvesting any additional animals. Therefore,
9 there will be no additional mortality. And for subsistence
10 users the impact should be slight because there are other
11 caribou herds, the Nelchina Caribou Herd is available, moose
12 are available and sheep are also available for harvest by
13 subsistence users in the area. Again, harvest has been light
14 for the last two years when the hunt was open. And the Park
15 Service and the Federal Subsistence Board have shown a
16 willingness to reopen closed seasons on the Mentasta Caribou
17 Herd when the biological characteristics meet objectives to
18 find in the cooperative management plan.

19
20 If anybody has any questions, I'll be glad to answer
21 them.

22
23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you have a count for caribou, number
24 of caribou?

25
26 MR. MITCHELL: The last count in September 1997 was
27 estimated at 600 caribou in the Mentasta herd.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Down from what?

30
31 MR. MITCHELL: It's down about 23 percent, whatever
32 that turns out to be. The herd has been falling by between 17
33 and 25 percent for the last decade or so, actually.

34
35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Ralph, do you have a question?

36
37 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. I was just going to say that in that
38 cooperative agreement plan that was signed off on, should the
39 recruitment go back up over 80 calves per year for two years,
40 then the hunt would be eligible for reopening?

41
42 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. And that's exactly what happened
43 in '95, the hunt was reopened. It had been closed from '92 to
44 '95 and it was reopened, yes.

45
46 MR. LOHSE: But even during that time we still had a
47 population drop going on at the same time?

48
49 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. It was restricted because of the
50 size of the herd, below 2,000 -- the plan calls for hunting to

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1 be restricted to a Federal registration hunt. It was limited
2 to bulls only at that time.

3

4 MR. LOHSE: So technically speaking though, the
5 subsistence hunt hasn't really had much impact on the herd but
6 the herd is declining for other reasons?

7

8 MR. MITCHELL: That's correct, yes, sir.

9

10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you.

11

12 MR. F. JOHN: I got one question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

15

16 MR. F. JOHN: Do you have why this is happening or is
17 it wolf or is it too many Nelchina caribou or do you got any
18 reason why it's been declining all this time?

19

20 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, as far as we can determine from
21 the past research that's been done since about 1992, the
22 problem with the Mentasta Caribou Herd is that they are not
23 recruiting any calves or very many calves rather into the
24 population and that is due to wolf and bear predation on young
25 calves between birth and their first fall. We have very low
26 calf/cow ratios in the fall.

27

28 MR. F. JOHN: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you. Oh, Ralph, you still
31 had a question?

32

33 MR. LOHSE: And that herd is entirely basically
34 summering inside the Park?

35

36 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

37

38 MR. LOHSE: So there can be no predator control?

39

40 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I know this comment -- I know it
43 doesn't make a lot of sense, but I've said that time and time
44 again, that we've got to do something about the wolves or the
45 caribou are going away over there. They have to eat and
46 they'll get them, they've practically wiped them out. It
47 doesn't make sense to me, but I've said that for the last 10
48 years, the wolves. Any other questions?

49

50 MS. EAKON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, there was a

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1 correction in the book, I didn't get it.

2

3 MR. MITCHELL: We wrote down that -- there are two
4 places in the proposal, under effect of proposed change on
5 subsistence users, Part I there, we have the most recent
6 seasons in 1996 and 1997, 15 bull caribou permits were
7 available, each of those years. That is incorrect, in 1997
8 only 12 permits were available. And those numbers are also
9 repeated in the Staff analysis on Page 92, the second paragraph
10 under the justification.

11

12 MS. EAKON: Okay, thank you.

13

14 MR. MITCHELL: We just found some of the missing
15 records the other day.

16

17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, well, thank you very much. Do we
18 have other comments then? Other agency comments? No other
19 agency comments. Any written comment?

20

21 MS. EAKON: As Gloria stated this morning, CRNA will
22 stay neutral on Proposal 23. The Eastern Interior Regional
23 Council passed a motion to defer to the Southcentral Regional
24 Council. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports the
25 proposal saying that it's consistent with the provisions of the
26 Mentasta Caribou Herd Management Plan. And lastly, the
27 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission supports the
28 proposal.

29

30 End of comments.

31

32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Now, we get to the public
33 testimony. Anybody from the public want to -- yes, Joe.

34

35 MR. HICKS: My name is Joe Hicks. I support this
36 proposal for Game Management Unit 11. I've read through this
37 and there is a flaw that I see in here that is not mentioned
38 here. You might remember, Roy, when you were with Ahtna, back
39 a decade ago which as the former person just mentioned here,
40 that there was a Federal land disposal in the Mentasta area.
41 The Federal land disposal meaning the north and south
42 settlement and that happened about a decade ago. Before the
43 settlement occurred, the Mentasta Caribou Herd was quite
44 plentiful. You could see them on the roads, you could see them
45 intermix with the other caribou herds, it was plentiful. You
46 would see it as you drive to school, you could see it almost
47 everywhere. Today you can see a significant decline here. And
48 it says here in this discussion report, the Mentasta herd
49 decreased of approximately 2,583 animals in 1987, which was
50 when the land disposal occurred for the north and south Slana

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1 area to 614 animals in 1997. I mean that is significant
2 decline. And I think that very seriously needs to be looked at
3 here and one of the major reasons that I think should be put on
4 this record is because of that south and north Slana settlement
5 area.

6
7 That's my comment. I support this proposal.
8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Joe. That is true. There
10 was no mention of the fact that the new settlement had on this
11 caribou herd. I'm not familiar with the actual harvest or
12 anything from the people in that area, a lot of it probably
13 went unreported. Yes.

14
15 MR. MITCHELL: This is Carl Mitchell again from
16 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. We don't have any
17 information on any illegal harvest that might have happened.
18 But the sport harvest rates for the time from the late '80s
19 through 1997, the last 10 years, the sport harvest has never
20 exceeded five percent of the spring population count. So it's
21 extremely unlikely that legal harvest had any impact on this
22 herd at all. Again, illegal harvest is another question and we
23 have no way to answer that. And subsistence harvest was never
24 an issue either, just based on the numbers.

25
26 Yes, sir.
27

28 MR. LOHSE: Since the herd basically now is in the Park
29 under Park management and Park control, at this point in time,
30 do you feel that there is illegal harvest taking place out
31 there that could be impacting it or is the impact strictly on
32 calf survival?

33
34 MR. MITCHELL: I have no personal knowledge of illegal
35 harvest and my sense from the rangers that work the areas where
36 the Mentasta herd is found is there is very little illegal
37 harvest or harvest outside the season. There is some and not
38 very much. And certainly not enough to cause the size of the
39 declines that we're seeing. The calf recruitment that we do
40 see is enough, it's sufficient in and of itself to explain the
41 decline. There simply isn't any recruitment. We don't have to
42 invoke any additional causes for that. So it's certainly
43 possible but we have no data and the predation is enough, in
44 and of itself, to account for the decline.

45
46 MR. LOHSE: So basically what you're saying is that the
47 calf recruitment doesn't keep up with natural mortality?

48
49 MR. MITCHELL: No.
50

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1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. I just wanted to comment
2 that probably Joe's comment is very timely here because I don't
3 think -- probably the initial impact on the herd probably
4 coincided with that settlement up there. And knowing rural
5 Alaska, the people that moved out of Anchorage, wherever they
6 moved and settled there, really didn't have winter jobs, didn't
7 have anything and probably did take caribou at that time, I
8 don't know, I'm not accusing anybody of anything but I would do
9 that if I had no other means of getting meat on the table. But
10 that's what happens in rural Alaska a lot of times, you get
11 what you can get. Maybe that did have an initial impact, but
12 I'm more inclined to believe that it's bear and the wolves that
13 are having the impact right now.

14
15 Are we ready to -- any other public comments?
16

17 MS. DEWITT: I wanted to speak on behalf of our people.
18 People like me, it's hard for us to go out there and hunt where
19 that Unit 11 is. We don't have airplanes and boats and things
20 to go out there to go hunting, that's why only one hunt out
21 there. People like me, we don't have car and license or no way
22 out there to go hunting. We only go hunting in Unit 13 where
23 we can with vehicles and we don't have no four-wheelers or
24 whatever they use to go out there. That's the reason why -- we
25 never go out there.

26
27 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. I alluded to that situation
28 out there, there is real subsistence user -- the person that
29 really needs to get their game don't have the access that other
30 people do, you know, to get out there and get them. That's too
31 bad, but that's how it is.

32
33 Any other comments from the public? If not, we'll go
34 on to the Regional Council.

35
36 MR. DEMENTI: Do you want a motion?

37
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

39
40 MR. DEMENTI: I'll make a motion to support the
41 proposal.

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

44
45 MR. F. JOHN: I second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. Further
48 discussion on the motion. Are you ready to vote on the motion?
49 All in favor say aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. We'll go on to
8 Proposal 24.

9

10 MS. EAKON: Proposal 24 would establish a goat season
11 in part of Unit 11 and Robert Willis is the presenter, via
12 teleconference.

13

14 MR. WILLIS: Helga, I believe that's incorrect. I
15 believe Proposal 24 deals with c&t.

16

17 MS. EAKON: Thank you for the correction.

18

19 MS. MASON: Yes, it does.

20

21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, is Robert going to.....

22

23 MS. MASON: No, actually it's me, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

26

27 MS. MASON: There's an incorrect listing in the book of
28 what this proposal is. But this one was submitted by Frank
29 Entsminger from Tok, Proposal 24, and it requests that
30 Glennallen be added to the list of communities given a positive
31 c&t for goat in Unit 11.

32

33 The history of this proposal is that in 1997 the
34 Federal Subsistence Board considered a request for positive c&t
35 for goat in Unit 11 for the residents of Unit 11, 12 and Dot
36 Lake. And the Board adopted a positive c&t for goat in Unit 11
37 for the residents of Unit 11 as well as the residents of
38 Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina,
39 Mentasta Lake, Tonsina and Dot Lake. And ADF&T has requested
40 reconsideration of this decision which will be -- I think it's
41 the next one that we look at here. The Staff analysis for that
42 proposal had recommended rejecting the proposal with the
43 justification that the only communities that demonstrated
44 historic and traditional use of mountain goat in Unit 11 are
45 the Ahtna villages of Chitina, Tonsina and probably Tazlina and
46 Copper Center. But there was no information indicating that
47 there were subsistence harvest of goat by the Upper Tanana
48 communities, and there was no evidence to support the
49 subsistence harvest of goat by the residents of McCarthy and
50 Kennicott. But the Board decided to include those areas in the

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1 positive c&t determination based on the personal knowledge of
2 the Regional Council members as well as public testimony, both
3 at the Southcentral and the Eastern Interior Councils.

4
5 This proposal was developed in response to that 1997
6 decision stating that because Glennallen's hunting and
7 gathering activities don't differ from other communities in the
8 Copper Basin, then Glennallen ought to qualify for subsistence
9 as much as the other communities. There have been subsistence
10 harvest studies conducted in Glennallen in 1983 and '87, but
11 reflecting harvests in '82 and '87 and no goat harvests or uses
12 were recorded in either year. However, there is harvest ticket
13 data indicating that Glennallen residents reported taking 15
14 goats between 1986 and 1996. And of those 15 goats, nine of
15 them were in Unit 11. So this was -- definitely there were
16 harvests recorded by Glennallen residents and the border of
17 Unit 11 is right across the Copper River from Glennallen and
18 it's quite accessible to the community. It should be noted,
19 however, that the main goat habitat in Unit 11 is considerably
20 farther away on the south side of the Wrangell mountains.

21
22 The preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal
23 on the basis that the harvest of goats in Unit 11 by the
24 residents of Glennallen is documented in ADF&G harvest records.
25 And although no harvest or use of goat was reported in
26 subsistence harvest surveys, it's not surprising, considering
27 the fact that Glennallen had a larger population and so the
28 random survey would not get -- might not catch everybody. And
29 also Glennallen residents reported taking less than one goat
30 per year in permit hunts. So the available data do show that
31 Glennallen residents have reported harvesting more goats in
32 Unit 11 than any of the other communities in the Copper River
33 Basin including those which do have a positive c&t for goat in
34 Unit 11.

35
36 I'll conclude by saying that this is a different
37 conclusion than was on this proposal to start with. And so
38 when we had the subcommittee meeting of the Southcentral and
39 the Eastern Interior groups, at that time the recommendation
40 was not to support it. But that was based on erroneous
41 information that there was no harvest ticket data that
42 Glennallen had gotten goat in the past, but it turns out they
43 have, so the changed recommendation is to support a positive
44 c&t for Glennallen.

45
46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, do we have other agency comments?
47 Go ahead.

48
49 MR. SELINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Jeff
50 Selinger with the Department of Fish and Game. Once again, I

00092

1 don't want to sound like a broken record, but we agree with the
2 analysis that was done by -- that was just presented.
3 Basically we support having Glennallen recognized as a
4 subsistence community for goats in Unit 11 and I think it was
5 well stated early what the reasons for that would be.

6
7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other agency comment? Any written
8 comment?

9
10 MS. EAKON: The Eastern Interior Regional Council
11 passed a motion to defer to the Southcentral Regional Council.
12 And there were no written public comments submitted.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Anybody from the public want to
15 testify on this proposal? Yes, Frank.

16
17 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members, you might
18 be wondering why Frank Entsminger from Upper Tanana would
19 recommend that Glennallen have a positive c&t on mountain
20 goats. But as many of you know, I also sit on the SRC, and
21 part of our job or at least as I see it is to uphold the
22 legitimate rights of hunters in Wrangell-St. Elias. And I
23 personally felt that Glennallen qualifies as one of the
24 communities that should be allowed to hunt mountain goats in
25 Wrangell-St. Elias. And this is basically why I submitted the
26 proposal. I've known people in the past that have hunted goats
27 over there and utilized them for food and the hides for
28 different products and whatnot, so I went ahead and submitted
29 the proposal.

30
31 I know on Staff analysis, you know, they suggest that
32 Glennallen is, you know, fairly close visually to that goat
33 area but it's a little bit further to travel over there, and
34 you know, that certainly may well be but there's actually the
35 community of Dot Lake that has had a tie through, you know,
36 blood line through this area that received a positive c&t on
37 mountain goats and you know the little bit of distance that
38 Glennallen is to that mountain goat hunting area over there,
39 it's pretty minuscule compared to the distance that people from
40 Dot Lake would have to drive to go down there to hunt mountain
41 goats. So I don't think distance is a factor in this
42 particular proposal.

43
44 I won't take up anymore of your time, but I just --
45 basically I kind of wanted to let you know why I went ahead and
46 submitted the proposal.

47
48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Frank.

49
50 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

00093

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other public testimony on this
2 proposal? If not, we'll go on to the Regional Council
3 recommendation and justification. I'll start off with my
4 comment, I'll go along with this proposal based on the
5 information that we heard. If somebody wants to make a motion
6 we'll move this along.

7
8 MR. LOHSE: I'll make a motion.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion made by Ralph Lohse.

11
12 MR. F. JOHN: I'll second it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any further.....

15
16 MR. LOHSE: Do we know what the motion is? The motion
17 is to accept Proposal 24 as presented.

18
19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That's what I thought you were doing, I
20 was reading your mind. Any further discussion on the motion?

21
22 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Question's called for. All in favor
25 say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion's carried. Okay. We'll go on
34 to the next proposal then.

35
36 MS. EAKON: Request for reconsideration R97-07 came
37 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Rachel Mason
38 is the presenter of the analysis.

39
40 MS. MASON: Thank you, Helga. The positive c&t
41 determination for goat in Unit 11 that we discussed in the last
42 proposal is the same one that is under discussion here. And
43 the ADF&G requested reevaluation of the Board's decision in
44 spring of 1997. The decision had given a positive c&t for goat
45 in Unit 11 to the residents of Unit 11 and the residents of
46 Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina,
47 Mentasta Lake, Tonsina and Dot Lake. And the ADF&G RFR
48 suggested that the c&t determination should be limited to those
49 communities that clearly meet the eight criteria for c&t.

50

1 The original proposal was a combination of a backlog
2 proposal and a new proposal. The original proposal requested
3 positive c&t for goat for the residents of Unit 12 and also the
4 residents of McCarthy and Kennicott and of Dot Lake. The Staff
5 analysis prior to Regional Council input and public testimony
6 didn't support providing a positive c&t, however, public
7 testimony and the personal knowledge of the Council members,
8 both from the Southcentral and the Eastern Interior Councils
9 indicated that there was a qualifying pattern of use by the
10 residents that I named above. And the Federal Subsistence
11 Board found this persuasive.

12
13 The issues that were raised -- several issues were
14 raised by the ADF&G's RFR. One of them is that there have been
15 two subsistence harvest studies conducted by the ADF&G showing
16 that very few households in any communities of Unit 11 or 12
17 use goats. And there is good historical evidence that the
18 Ahtna residents of Chitina use goats in the past. The RFR
19 points out that no recent use has been documented. And so the
20 RFR suggested that the evidence might be sufficient for a
21 positive finding for Chitina and Tonsina and probably for
22 Tazlina and Copper Center, but recent systematic research had
23 failed to document more than a very few households that use
24 goats.

25
26 At the Southcentral Regional Council, a CRNA
27 representative testified that goats were hunted in the past but
28 there was very little that is technically used to support a
29 long-term consistent pattern of use. And so the ADF&G
30 contended that factor number one was not fulfilled in this.
31 And also the RFR contends that very little was said to support
32 a c&t use by residents of Unit 11. And this was based on
33 Council member testimony. And there was another issue brought
34 up that the only evidence linking Dot Lake with the Unit 11
35 goat was the kinship ties between Dot Lake and the Copper River
36 Basin communities.

37
38 No new information has been brought forward since then,
39 so I won't summarize the Proposal 22 analysis from last year.
40 I'll just bring out again, the primary points that are brought
41 up in the RFR are that there is insufficient evidence to
42 support a positive c&t use determination for goat in Unit 11
43 for the residents of Unit 11, for the residents of Dot Lake and
44 for some of the Ahtna communities that were in the proposal.
45 So to summarize what the request is concerned about, it's
46 mainly that there's a lack of information. In order to respond
47 to these, it would be helpful if the Regional Council members
48 and other knowledgeable subsistence users were able to provide
49 testimony concerning the communities that use goats in Unit 11
50 and the numbers of goats taken, the year they were taken and

00095

1 where they were taken in order to support a positive c&t as in
2 the Board decision of last year.

3
4 That concludes the presentation.

5
6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Other agency comments? Do we
7 have any written comment?

8
9 MS. EAKON: The recommendation of the Eastern Interior
10 Regional Council is to oppose the RFR. The Upper Tanana
11 Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee wrote and said, do
12 not reconsider. Prior to the establishment of the Wrangell
13 Park, people from the entire state could hunt goats in Unit 11.
14 With responsible seasons and bag limits, the few communities
15 that received a positive c&t would have no negative effect on
16 the goat population.

17
18 End of comments.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Okay. The existing
21 regulation includes Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Gakona
22 and so on.....

23
24 MR. LOHSE: The one that we just passed.

25
26 CHAIRMAN EWAN:and Dot Lake, yeah. I'm trying to
27 understand what they're trying to change.

28
29 MR. LOHSE: They want us to drop all of those except
30 for Chitina, Tazlina and -- Chitina, Tonsina and Tazlina --
31 let's see, it says Chitina, Tonsina and probably Tazlina and
32 Copper Center. I mean they're saying that the rest of them
33 don't.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Do we have anybody from the
36 public that wants to testify? Frank.

37
38 MR. ENTSMINGER: Did you want agency comments first
39 or.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I thought I asked for agency comments.

42
43 MR. LOHSE: You forgot ADF&G.

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Did you want to comment or what?

46
47 MR. SELINGER: No.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I thought that was right.

50

1 MR. ENTSMINGER: Sorry about that. Actually, you know,
2 I've hunted goats considerably myself. And I know of quite a
3 few other people that hunt goats. But I think mountain goat is
4 a little bit similar to brown bears, that you know, probably
5 not a whole bunch of people rush up the hill to shoot a
6 mountain goat to eat it. But I strongly feel that mountain
7 goat should be a subsistence species. It's available --
8 especially, you know, the resident zone communities and all the
9 eligible subsistence users in these, you know, surrounding the
10 goat habitat. And I don't know, you know, it almost appears
11 that the Department recommendation is almost like a kneejerk
12 response. That I think it was more that maybe there wasn't
13 enough documentation then -- concern for the resource, but you
14 know, possibly there was that concern for the resource, too.
15 Mountain goat, I think most people realize that it is a
16 population of animals that can be easily killed out if it's
17 not, you know, fairly closely regulated. And as we go further
18 on into the proposal booklet, there's actually some proposals
19 to establish a mountain goat season. But I think if, you know,
20 a good sound mountain goat season is established, I can't, for
21 any reason see why the subsistence users can't utilize mountain
22 goats as an animal for, you know, to harvest.

23
24 It's probably a little more of an incidental take in a
25 lot of instances. I know when I sheep hunt in some of the
26 areas we actually have to sneak by the mountain goats in order
27 to get to the sheep because a lot of the Wrangell area is
28 plateau'd on top where the sheep live, but the steep vertical
29 sides where you have to climb to get to the sheep are inhabited
30 by mountain goats. And it would be -- it would actually be
31 easier to take a mountain goat than a sheep in many instances
32 hunting over there.

33
34 So you know, I'm all for it and all the Upper Tanana
35 people that I talked to and our advisory committee supported
36 that mountain goats should be a subsistence animal for all
37 these communities. And you know, thinking back before the
38 inception of the Park and all that, the entire state of Alaska
39 could hunt over there and mountain goats were hunted, you know,
40 quite -- on an annual basis by all of the people of Alaska, and
41 I can't see where a few communities that have a c&t along with
42 a reasonable hunting season is going to pose any kind of a
43 threat to the mountain goat population over there. You know, I
44 mean I look at it as an added opportunity for subsistence
45 hunters to bring something home to eat. And also mountain
46 goats have a very nice hide on them. My wife uses them in
47 mukluk, parka trim, all kinds of different things, blankets, so
48 on and so forth, it's a valuable animal as a subsistence
49 resource.

00097

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are you speaking in favor of the
4 proposal or against it?

5

6 MR. ENTSMINGER: No, they're wanting to delete a bunch
7 of these communities from a c&t so.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So you're speaking against it?

10

11 MR. ENTSMINGER:I'm speaking against it, yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

14

15 MR. ENTSMINGER: I feel that all of these communities
16 have a legitimate right to hunt goats over there.

17

18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you, Frank.

19

20 MR. ENTSMINGER: You're welcome.

21

22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other public comments? If not,
23 we'll get down to Regional Council recommendation. Ralph.

24

25 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. Just reading through their request
26 for reconsideration, there's a couple of things that I, I don't
27 know, I feel I object to pretty highly. It says the Council
28 heard testimony from a representative of Copper River Native
29 Association which described hunting of goats as
30 opportunistically while sheep hunting. Well, I'm like Frank,
31 goats inhabit the kind of country that you don't normally just
32 go after goats there. Goats would be taken opportunistically,
33 but that is part of subsistence hunting. Part of subsistence
34 hunting is taking things with the best conservation of effort
35 that you can take them, not going -- I mean trophy hunters are
36 the ones that go out and expend -- hang the expense and hang
37 the effort to get something. Subsistence people take things in
38 the easiest way that they can or in the most opportunistic way
39 that they can. So to me that shows that it was used more in
40 the order of subsistence than it was anything else.

41

42 The other thing is, I guess I -- although one Council
43 member had lived a couple winters in Unit 11 and used goat, I
44 mean I kind of took offense to that because I know who he was
45 referring to in that case and the couple winters were like
46 closer to 20 than a couple, you know. And I know from the
47 past, from talking to old-timers that lived out there, that
48 lived up in Dan Creek and May Creek and Kennicott and McCarthy
49 area, from the time I spent in Chitina, people
50 opportunistically took goats to put meat in the pot. And

00098

1 that's basically what it boiled down to, including myself.

2

3 And so I am totally against the request for
4 reconsideration. I think, like Frank says, it's a National
5 Park now, but these people have in the past made use of it and
6 I think as long as there's sufficient goats to support their
7 use they should be able to continue to make use of it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other comments? Are you ready to
10 make a recommendation then?

11

12 MR. LOHSE: I recommend that we reject the request for
13 reconsideration.

14

15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second? You make that
16 motion, right?

17

18 MR. LOHSE: Yes.

19

20 MR. F. JOHN: I second it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second to reject
23 the proposal. Any further discussion on the motion? Are we
24 prepared to vote?

25

26 MR. LOHSE: Prepared to vote.

27

28 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All in favor say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. We'll go on to the
37 next one, it's a request for reconsideration proposal, Proposal
38 25, right?

39

40 MS. EAKON: Proposal 25 was deferred by the National
41 Park Service. So therefore we go on to Proposals 26 and 27,
42 which were combined for analysis. They deal with goat season
43 and harvest limit in Unit 11 and the lead is Robert Willis.

44

45 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Helga. The purpose of both of
46 these proposals is for mountain goat on National Park lands
47 where there is currently no open season of any kind. It would
48 be a subsistence on National Preserve lands where there is
49 currently an open State season but no subsistence season.

50

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1 The proposals differ in the opening dates that they're
2 recommending and the length of the season. The Upper Tanana
3 Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee has suggested an
4 opening date of August 25th and their concern here is at that
5 time of the year both the hides as well as -- and the meat of
6 harvested animals would be useable. The Copper River Native
7 Association has recommended an opening date of August the 10th
8 and an ending date of September 20th. And their reasoning here
9 was that they would like to have the goat season be concurring
10 with the sheep season.

11
12 Both of these proposals call for an opening date which
13 is earlier than the current State season in order to establish
14 a subsistence priority. However, it needs to be pointed out
15 that this would be significant only on Preserve lands, because
16 currently there is no season on Park lands and the only
17 subsistence users who would be allowed to hunt goats on Park
18 lands would be those living in the current resident zone
19 communities.

20
21 The Wrangell and Chugach mountain area that we're
22 dealing with here is actually the northern most extension of
23 mountain goat range in Alaska. The areas along the coast have
24 better habitat and much higher populations than you'd find in
25 this area. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game survey
26 inventory reports indicate that habitat in this area is
27 somewhat limited and scattered. That goats occur in
28 substantial numbers only north of the Chisana River and east of
29 the Lakina River and over to the Canadian border, and the
30 remainder of the mountains in that area are of marginal goat
31 habitat.

32
33 The ADF&G estimate of goats in the southern Wrangells
34 and the Chugach mountains currently estimate it at about 700
35 goats. They conduct an annual survey of trend count area north
36 of the Chisana and the population in this area in 1995, which
37 is the last year for which I have data was 45 goats. Now, this
38 falls within the range of 34 to 55 goats that's been recorded
39 in there since 1985. The average count was about 47. And
40 since Jeff Selinger is here he can possibly update us with some
41 more recent information a little later on.

42
43 The ratio of kids to adults observed in that '95 count
44 was 5:100 and kids comprised 31 percent of the goats observed,
45 which indicates a healthy population. The trend counts south
46 of the Chisana River are unknown because the survey coverage
47 down that way is not very good. The ADF&G area biologist who
48 provided us with the information cautioned us however that
49 preparation of this reports is somewhat difficult because the
50 changes that show up yearly in the counts may reflect variables

00100

1 in the survey as well as fluctuations in the population because
2 goats are notoriously difficult to count, and good counting
3 weather is not always available in the mountains.

4
5 Prior to the 1970s when the National Park was created,
6 goats were hunted throughout that area as you heard previously.
7 After the Park was established, a lot of that area was off
8 limits and the current State hunting regulations on these
9 Preserve lands and the adjacent non-Federal lands allow the
10 harvest of one goat of either sex by registration permit,
11 period September 1 to November 30. These areas are pretty
12 popular among hunters, and the current harvest rate for some of
13 those areas is around 10 percent, which is fairly high.
14 However, again, ADF&G considers this to be a sustainable rate
15 because they feel that the number of goats that that 10 percent
16 is taken from represents a minimum estimate of the total
17 population.

18
19 During 1994 there were 14 goats taken in Unit 11, the
20 average harvest since 1980 has been 16. Non-residents can also
21 hunt in this area and since 1983 they've taken about 63 percent
22 of the goats harvested. Generally, the non-resident harvest
23 occurs by guided hunters who are also hunting sheep. During
24 the last 10 years or so, the highest harvest has occurred early
25 in the season and again, this is a reflection of the fact that
26 a lot of them were taken by non-resident hunters who were
27 hunting sheep during August 10 to September 20. Prior to
28 establishment of the Park, there was a significant harvest
29 later in the season, and currently most of the goats taken
30 later in the season are taken by local hunters who are hunting
31 specifically for goats. We anticipate that if Park lands are
32 once again open to hunting that late season hunting, especially
33 during the month of October will resume once more.

34
35 The current proposal by the Upper Tanana Fish and Game
36 Advisory Committee would extend the season through the month of
37 December. We question the wisdom of that. The current State
38 season ends November the 30th, which is probably a pretty good
39 date because when you get into December you're into a situation
40 with very short daylight hours and significant amounts of snow
41 and pretty severe cold.

42
43 The customary and traditional use of goats in this area
44 is well documented, especially by the Ahtna who have lived in
45 that area for over 9,000 years. Goats were an important land
46 mammal for the Ahtna and that they traditionally hunted those
47 animals there from the middle of August when they traveled the
48 mountains to hunt for sheep and caribou.

49
50 To reiterate the two proposals that we're dealing with

00101

1 here in this single analysis, adoption of Proposal 26 would
2 open the National Park lands to goat hunting by resident zone
3 communities of August 25 through December 31, and would open a
4 subsistence season on National Preserve lands seven days prior
5 to the opening of the State season. It would extend the
6 subsistence season on Preserve lands to the end of December, if
7 that is approved. Proposal 27, on the other hand, would open
8 National Park lands to goat hunting by resident zone
9 communities August the 10th through September the 20th and
10 would open the subsistence on Preserve lands 21 days earlier
11 than the State season.

12
13 Our preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal 26,
14 August 25th opening and reject Proposal 27. We would also
15 suggest a modification to end the season on November the 30th,
16 unless someone comes forth at this meeting with some
17 information on December goat hunting, we don't see a need to
18 extend it past the end of the current State season. The
19 populations on Federal land in Unit 11 are healthy and capable
20 of supporting a harvest, and we feel that opening the Federal
21 season seven days ahead of the general State season would
22 provide a priority opportunity for subsistence users. If this
23 hunt is initiated we would recommend a Federal registration
24 permit and a quota to allow close monitoring of the harvest.

25
26 The reason we feel that the late opening would be
27 better is we agree with the Upper Tanana Committee, that the
28 hide, especially, are of much better quality later in August
29 than they early in the month. I don't have personal experience
30 with goats taken in that part of the Wrangells, but the ones
31 that I've seen taken along the coast and further south were
32 very poorly harried out in the early part -- middle part of
33 August so I tend to concur with their analysis of that
34 situation. I need reiterate that if we created a separate
35 Federal hunt there will need to be some very close cooperation
36 between ADF&G and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park monitoring
37 those hunts and developing quotas to determine how many goats
38 need to be taken. Harvest reporting on Federal hunts should go
39 directly to the Park so that they can communicate with the
40 State and these seasons can be watched closely. The goats, as
41 someone mentioned, I think it was Frank that mentioned it
42 earlier, goats occur generally in small isolated areas and
43 they're very susceptible to over harvest. So close monitoring
44 of any goat harvest is extremely important. And for this
45 reason we would like to see a very close monitoring effort if
46 these seasons are established. And I believe that the State
47 also has a third option that they're going to recommend for a
48 subsistence hunt on Park lands and I'll let them present that a
49 little later on.

50

00102

1 I believe that concludes the Staff analysis.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Robert. Does anybody have
4 any questions of Robert while he's on?

5

6 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I have a couple questions I'd like to
7 clarify with him. Robert, did I understand right that this
8 would goat season on Park proper or would it just open goat
9 season on the Park Preserve.

10

11 MR. WILLIS: It would open the season on the Park
12 proper.

13

14 MR. LOHSE: Currently there is a season in the Park
15 Preserve but it's ADF&G's season and ends on November 30th and
16 opens September 1st, 5th?

17

18 MR. WILLIS: Currently the State season on Preserve
19 lands opens on September 1st and ends on November 30th.

20

21 MR. LOHSE: Do you -- one more question, from a
22 subsistence standpoint, do you feel that the five days at the
23 front of the season would be as much of a gain as the month at
24 the end of the season?

25

26 MR. WILLIS: That's difficult for me to answer, Ralph,
27 I would probably defer to somebody like Frank who's hunted that
28 country. As I said earlier, the month of December has such
29 poor daylight and a lot of deep snow generally. We've had a
30 couple of people mention that that was a poor time if you were
31 thinking about hunting goats. Certainly if we're working under
32 a Federal registration permit and a quota, we can extend the
33 season as long as we want and still shut it down when we have
34 harvested the number of goats that we feel the population can
35 stand. I guess it's a question of whether or not you want to
36 have regulations that extend on both ends of the existing State
37 season on the same piece of ground.

38

39 MR. LOHSE: One other question, Robert. This Federal
40 subsistence season would open Park proper but it would also
41 take place on Preserve land, too, wouldn't it?

42

43 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

44

45 MR. LOHSE: So basically it would take place on Federal
46 land in Unit 11?

47

48 MR. WILLIS: All Federal lands in Unit 11 would have
49 the same subsistence season under this regulation. Currently
50 there is no season on Park lands proper whereas there is an

00103

1 existing State season on Preserve lands.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: I'll make a motion to put something on the
4 table for us to discuss.

5

6 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Pardon?

7

8 MR. LOHSE: I'll make a motion to put something on the
9 table for us to discuss.

10

11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. I just wanted to have Robert
12 comment on, we are not making too much changes to the 27
13 proposal are we or.....

14

15 MR. F. JOHN: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Just extending the season, is that
18 right, Robert?

19

20 MR. WILLIS: I'm not sure I understand the question,
21 Roy.

22

23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That 27 proposal, I just wanted to know
24 what the difference was.

25

26 MR. WILLIS: The phone may have cut out there for a
27 minute and I missed the early part of that. It got real quiet
28 there for a minute anyway.

29

30 Proposal 27 would create a Federal subsistence season
31 which opens on August 25th, seven days prior to the opening of
32 the State season on National Preserve lands. And it would
33 extend through the end of December which is a month beyond when
34 the State season would end. On National Park lands, it would
35 also open a season August 25th through December the 31st, and
36 this would be a subsistence only season. There is no State
37 season in the middle of that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you.

40

41 MR. LOHSE: Robert, I think Roy was asking about
42 Proposal 27 not 26.

43

44 MR. WILLIS: I'm sorry, hang on a second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That's okay. I read it now while you
47 were talking. I pretty much have an idea of what's going on
48 here. Go ahead Ralph were you going to make a motion.

49

50 MR. LOHSE: I'll make a motion just to put something on

00104

1 the table.

2

3 MR. WILLIS: Yeah, let me start over again there. I
4 got confused myself. 27 would open a season on August 10th and
5 it would close on September 20th, so that what you would have
6 on the Park would be an August 10 to September 20 subsistence
7 only season. And on the Preserve you would have an August 10
8 to September 20 subsistence season and then the State season
9 would continue through the end of November.

10

11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, go ahead, Ralph.

12

13 MR. LOHSE: I make a motion we accept Proposal 26.

14

15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second? Oh, we have a
16 comment or a question?

17

18 MR. LOHSE: I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I thought we were
19 already at the end of it, my fault.

20

21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Robert reported a long one.

22

23 MR. LOHSE: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: We have agency comments, yes, Jeff.

26

27 MR. SELINGER: We applaud your efforts to try and speed
28 things along there. Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, for
29 the most part and I apologize, I could not hear quite
30 everything that Robert had reported on. It sounded like, from
31 what I heard, everything was accurate. The few things he
32 hinted on he'd like to know what the population of goats have
33 been doing since 1995 when he had his last data.

34

35 The last two -- in 1995, like Robert stated, the
36 population was estimated at 45 goats. In '96 it was estimated
37 at 60 goats. And in 1997 it was estimated at 66 goats. And
38 this is just for one of our count areas, it's on McCall Ridge.
39 Robert also stated that a lot of times goat surveys are very
40 difficult. They're in, you know, depending on the wind
41 conditions, what the sun is doing, if the sun's on one side of
42 the mountain, they're hiding in caves, you know, so there's a
43 lot of variables in the goat counts themselves. But we feel we
44 probably have a stable population or possibly slightly
45 increasing but we do not have real good information just
46 because of the difficulty of goat surveys a lot of times.

47

48 Okay, I'll comment on the proposal itself and I'm sorry
49 if I repeat some of the stuff that Robert had already stated.
50 The Department believes that it would be much simpler and

0105

1 provide better management for the resource to include a
2 subsistence mountain goat hunt under the State hunt, similar
3 like to what was done with moose in Unit 11. The reason for
4 this is, as Robert had stated also, goats are susceptible to
5 over harvest in localized areas. The main pressure occurs in
6 two or three of the -- you know, the majority of the harvest up
7 until last year when some additional goats were harvested out
8 of Miles Glacier, occurred in two or three areas, we don't
9 think that those areas could sustain much more pressure. By
10 adding another season and another manager into the scheme of
11 mountain goat harvests, we figure that it could make it more
12 complicated to keep a good handle on the harvest that is
13 occurring. And we'd be fearful that over harvest is a
14 potential.

15
16 I believe Robert had stated that our yearly rates
17 approach 10 percent of the estimated population. Again, that's
18 an estimated population. In some -- a lot of areas we do not
19 have real good goat numbers for and survey conditions change
20 yearly and that will -- and that, of course, effects the
21 population estimates. Other areas in the State tend to hold
22 goat harvest down to two to three percent of the population.
23 And I guess for the most part I'll stop there. We would just
24 as soon see the subsistence season for goats, if it occurs, is
25 to occur under the State hunt similar with moose so we can
26 better see what the harvest is.

27
28 CHAIRMAN EWAN: And what are the dates for that State
29 hunt?

30
31 MR. SELINGER: The State hunt is September 1 through
32 November 30.

33
34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. That is what you would prefer?

35
36 MR. SELINGER: Correct, the Department.

37
38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'm not familiar with McCall Ridge,
39 where is that located at?

40
41 MR. SELINGER: It's just an.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN EWAN: That's because I'm not a goat hunter, I
44 guess.

45
46 MR. SELINGER: Yeah. It's fairly close to the Chitina
47 River just kind of on the north side of the Chitina River,
48 roughly between like the Chitina River and McCarthy/Kennicott
49 area. It's an isolated mountain ridge and both goats and sheep
50 occur on there.

00106

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any questions? Yes, Ralph.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Now, when you say that you'd like to see
4 that occur under the State hunt, do you mean concur with the
5 State hunt?

6

7 MR. SELINGER: Yes.

8

9 MR. LOHSE: In other words, so that there would still
10 be a Federal hunt on the Park proper, but with the same basic
11 opening and closing dates as the State hunt so that you could
12 keep track of what's going on?

13

14 MR. SELINGER: Yeah. It could be a State/Federal
15 subsistence hunt similar like what is going with the moose. So
16 you know, if somebody obtains a goat under the Federal
17 subsistence hunt, under the same dates or whatever, we just
18 figured it would be less confusing.

19

20 MR. LOHSE: Um-hum.

21

22 MR. SELINGER: You know, then they're not eligible for
23 the State hunt. And the State hunt currently is a registration
24 hunt.

25

26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Could I ask you to just quickly expand
27 on what possibly you see as being not good here if we extend
28 that too long, other than what you said, it's harder to
29 determine the take and all that, control and all that; is that
30 mainly the reason?

31

32 MR. SELINGER: We feel the more agencies that are
33 involved or the more people who are conducting hunts.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: During that period?

36

37 MR. SELINGER:during that time period, it just
38 adds another dimension. You know, the communication has to be
39 adequate between the Department and the State and some -- you
40 know, there is a potential that something could happen where
41 one agency doesn't know what the other agency's taking. And
42 with the potential for over harvest of goats, we see that as
43 being a potential problem. It would make it less complicated
44 if one agency ran the hunt.

45

46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you.

47

48 MR. SELINGER: You bet.

49

50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do we have any other public comments?

00107

1 How about agencies, anymore public agencies? If not, go ahead
2 Frank.

3
4 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, basically
5 the proposal that Upper Tanana submitted was just to try to get
6 a mountain goat season established. And actually I was the
7 author of that proposal. And I have to apologize when I -- I
8 knew when I picked the August 25th date of opening I knew that
9 that was not concurrent with the State season, I knew that that
10 was a little bit earlier than the State season. But I thought
11 the State season did run until December 31st and then I found
12 out it was November 30th. And we would have no problem with
13 the season ending November 30th, starting on August 25th and
14 ending November 30th. And the reason we felt that the August
15 25th opening was a little more appropriate than the September
16 1st opening is that, you know, many times goats are harvested
17 when a person might be seeking a sheep. So the overlap, goat
18 and season would give the harvester a little more opportunity
19 to take a mountain goat rather than just starting with the
20 September 1st opening.

21
22 I know the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC basically recommended
23 the 25th of August opening until the November 30th closing,
24 both on Preserve land and National Park Service land, Park
25 proper land. Upper Tanana's original proposal was just to deal
26 with Park proper land, it didn't originally include Preserve
27 land because we knew there was a conflict in the season
28 openings. But the SRC felt that the opening should allow for
29 both Preserve lands and Park lands for subsistence users,
30 that's why they recommended both Park and Preserve. So in the
31 course of events the season openings and Park and Preserve
32 lands, it kind of got jumbled up. But I just wanted to let you
33 know that Upper Tanana would certainly support November 30th
34 closure. But we would still prefer -- we still think the
35 August 25th opening would be a little bit more appropriate.

36
37 I don't think we have any problem with which agency or
38 both agencies would be involved in the hunt like the
39 registration permit hunt, I mean who issued permits. I don't
40 think that's a concern. If the Federal people wanted to do it
41 that'd be fine, if the State people wanted to do it that'd be
42 fine. If both agencies had offices where you could go in and
43 pick up permits that would be okay also.

44
45 And that's all I have to say on this one.

46
47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Frank. Anybody else want to
48 testify on this proposal? Okay, we're down to Regional Council
49 recommendation.

50

00108

1 MS. EAKON: Written.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, we skipped one, okay, do you have
4 written comments?

5

6 MS. EAKON: The Eastern Interior Regional Council
7 supported the Staff recommendation for Proposal 26 and took no
8 action on Proposal 27 based on its action on Proposal 26. Mike
9 Sallee of Ketchikan would support it if it's going to be a
10 modest harvest.

11

12 End of comments.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, now, we're down to Regional
15 Council.

16

17 MR. LOHSE: Well, I'll make a motion just so we have it
18 on the table to discuss. I make a motion we adopt Proposal 26.

19

20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion.....

21

22 MR. LOHSE: And defer on Proposal 27.

23

24 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN EWAN: The motion is seconded. Further
27 discussion on the motion. I just wanted to know whether we
28 want to consider shortening the season there to November 30th
29 as recommended by a few people here now. Bob, are you still
30 on?

31

32 MR. WILLIS: I'm here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yeah, what do you think of the November
35 30th date?

36

37 MR. WILLIS: November 30th date would relieve some of
38 the confusion of having same lands open for some hunters after
39 others were forced to quit. If there is no reason to hunt
40 goats in December, then I would prefer to simply the regulation
41 and close them all at the same time. That was one of the
42 things I'd hoped to get from this Council meeting was whether
43 or not people felt that they needed to hunt goats in December.
44 As I said earlier, if they do, then certainly we can keep it
45 open through the end of December using the permit process and
46 proper reporting to keep from over harvesting any goat
47 population. On the other hand if there is not a real interest
48 in hunting in December, certainly it would simplify management
49 of the hunt closing it on November 30th.

50

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, Ralph.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chair, Robert, one thing I can say just
4 from experience and from having been in Unit 11, goats are a
5 little bit more vulnerable in December than they are in
6 November. Snow drives them down off the mountains, they're
7 down by the bases of the glaciers. They're down on the bases
8 of the steep cliffs, things like that. If our purpose in
9 having the hunt is to make more subsistence opportunity,
10 December is -- at least December up in our area was from my
11 recollection the time that a high percentage of the goats were
12 taken for subsistence purposes. If the worry is that the
13 subsistence hunt and everything will endanger the goats and
14 everything, a December closure would probably save some goats.

15

16 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Ralph. That's good
17 information. The comments that we had received here on the
18 December season was that there would be little benefit in
19 having one that late. Obviously, what you're telling me is is
20 that that's not necessarily the case. There could be a
21 significant harvest that late in the year. At the level that
22 those animals are currently being harvested and with an early
23 opening, I would suspect that we will have shot all the goats
24 that we reasonably can expect to be able to shoot long before
25 we get to December. And I might add that the more input from
26 the local ADF&G biologists there, if he concurs with that idea
27 that -- especially with an early opening, that the number of
28 goats that indeed will be taking will have been taken prior to
29 December.

30

31 MR. LOHSE: Robert, just for example for this winter,
32 there were goats available in the McCarthy area during December
33 after the current State season was closed. The two goats that
34 I've taken up in that country for purposes of eating in years
35 past and I know this was, 15 -- 10, 12, 15 years ago were both
36 taken in late December. Again, like I said, it will depend on
37 what the intentions of the hunt are whether you'd want to leave
38 it open for December or not.

39

40 MR. WILLIS: To repeat what I said earlier about the
41 permit system. The idea of having a registration permit with a
42 short reporting period or sent directly to the Park in the case
43 of a Federal hunt is to keep a close track on how many animals
44 are being taken. And then when you reach what you have set as
45 a quota you simply close the season by emergency order. If we
46 have a quota established prior to the hunt then we can do that.
47 So your concern about December hunting is not really too much
48 of an issue under that system. Also as I said earlier, it does
49 require close coordination between Federal and State agencies
50 to make sure that those reports get in and that each agency

00110

1 knows what kind of reports the other is getting.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Then if I understand you right, what you're
4 basically saying is if it's a reporting thing with permits, and
5 you have a quota the extension of time doesn't have that large
6 of a.....

7

8 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

9

10 MR. LOHSE: In that case I'll support it just the way
11 it's written.

12

13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any further discussion -- we have a
14 motion, right, on the floor?

15

16 MR. LOHSE: Right.

17

18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Are you ready to vote on the motion?

19

20 MR. F. JOHN: Are we going to vote on it to December
21 31?

22

23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, as proposed and recommended by
24 Staff. I was just waiting to see if anybody wanted to amend.
25 but nobody's amending, so are we ready to vote?

26

27 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah, we're ready to vote.

28

29 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All in favor of the motion to adopt
30 Proposal 26 say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried.

39

40 MR. F. JOHN: Break.

41

42 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll take a break. Do you want
43 to continue later, another hour or so?

44

45 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

46

47 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, break.

50

00111

1 (Off record - 4:51 p.m.)

2
3 (On record - 5:00 p.m.)

4
5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Before we start again, I was going to
6 ask the Council members what Helga just asked me and that's can
7 we start at 8:00 o'clock in the morning?

8
9 (Off record comments - affirmative)

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll do that. I'll call the
12 meeting back to order. We will get on to the next proposal
13 which I'm getting confused on, we skipped 25 right.

14
15 MS. EAKON: 25 and 29 were deferred by National Park
16 Service.

17
18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

19
20 MS. EAKON: Those were those individual c&t requests
21 for families.

22
23 CHAIRMAN EWAN: How long are we deferring?

24
25 MS. EAKON: For one year, Tom?

26
27 MR. BOYD: Yes.

28
29 MS. EAKON: Until they have the Staff to work on them.

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: It's unclear about that. So the next
32 proposal is 28?

33
34 MS. EAKON: That's correct.

35
36 CHAIRMAN EWAN: It was requested that maybe we ought to
37 wait to see if Robert would come around, Robert Marshall, on
38 this -- would there be a problem with doing that?

39
40 MS. EAKON: No. Gloria.

41
42 MS. STICKWAN: Robert and I and Russell Galipeau and
43 Jay Wells sat down and we worked on this proposal together.

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So he has had input into this already?

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So it's okay?

50

00112

1 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: All right. Let's take up Proposal 28
4 then. Helga, Proposal 28.

5

6 MS. EAKON: I was told that you have not voted on
7 Proposal 26 and 27; is that correct?

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I think we did.

10

11 MS. MASON: Yes, just 26.

12

13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: We did.

14

15 MR. LOHSE: No, 27 was included in my motion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, to reject.

18

19 MR. LOHSE: The motion was to adopt 26 and reject 27.

20

21 MS. EAKON: Adopt 26 and reject 27. Okay, thank you
22 for the clarification.

23

24 MR. F. JOHN: We just did it.

25

26 MS. EAKON: Okay, Proposal 28.

27

28 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

29

30 MS. EAKON: It would extend the sheep season in Unit 11
31 for the elderly and Robert Willis is the lead.

32

33 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Helga. The Council has seen
34 this proposal before in a slightly different form. It was
35 submitted a year ago by Robert Marshall and at that time it was
36 submitted for extending the season for all hunters in Unit 11.
37 At the time the Staff was told that we did not have a legal
38 option of creating a hunt for elders only.

39

40 We went through the analysis for having a hunt for all
41 persons having customary and traditional use of sheep in Unit
42 11 and there was a lot of concern locally that extending the
43 season for that number of people would be detrimental to the
44 sheep population in that area. That's an area that's
45 accessible by road. The sheep come down later in the year and
46 are particular vulnerable to hunters at that time.

47

48 At the Board meeting last year when this proposal was
49 discussed, we were told by the solicitor's office that the
50 Federal Subsistence Board did have the legal authority to

00113

1 create a hunt for elders only. And so we progressed from that
2 point and got a second proposal submitted, which is the one
3 that you see before you today. This proposal would extend the
4 season from September 21 to October 20 for persons 60 years of
5 age or older only. Currently, the season runs from August 10
6 to September 20. The harvest limit is one sheep of either sex.
7 State regulations are identical to those Federal regulations
8 except that non-resident hunters are restricted to a ram with
9 full curl horns or larger.

10
11 The sheep population in that area of Unit 11 has been
12 declining for a number of years, it's still sufficiently large
13 enough to support a harvest but it is in a decline. I noted
14 that most recent published data from 1996 in the area around
15 the Dana River to Long Glacier showed a decline in the number
16 of sheep from 557 in 1982 to 254 in 1996. However, the count
17 went up again in 1997. The ADF&G area biologist told me
18 earlier this year that they counted 297 this year as opposed to
19 250 for last year. The number of sheep counted per hour went
20 up from 79 in '96 to 110 per hour in '97. So that hopefully is
21 a good sign. The decline's been attributed to a number of
22 factors, human harvest along the road system, wolf predation,
23 and also to kind of a consistent pattern of adverse weather
24 conditions.

25
26 The communities in the area who harvest sheep in Unit
27 11 are Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Glennallen,
28 Gulkana, Lake Louise, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Paxton, Tazlina
29 and Tonsina. That comes from the ADF&G Division of Wildlife
30 the harvest data base. Most of the effort of those communities
31 within Unit 11 and about 42 percent of the sheep taken in that
32 area were taken by rural residents, however, that includes
33 rural residents not having customary and traditional use of
34 sheep as well as those who do.

35
36 In looking at the ADF&G data for the uniform code in
37 units -- along McCarthy Road to get a better feel for the
38 number of sheep that are being taken on the road accessible
39 areas, we found that local rural residents with c&t for that
40 area have taken only 26 percent of the harvest during the
41 period 1991 to 1995. That harvest averaged 12 sheep per year
42 and they were almost all rams which is good. For those reasons
43 we felt that having a Federal subsistence season which was
44 limited to rural residents 60 years of age or older and having
45 c&t for sheep in Unit 11 would not result in a significant
46 harvest even if we extended the season for a month as
47 requested. There is some risk of additional harvest or over
48 harvest of use, especially with any kind of a season, so we
49 again recommend a Federal registration permit hunt and the
50 harvest tickets sent directly to the Park to closely monitor

00114

1 the hunt if one is established.

2

3 Our preliminary conclusion is to support this proposal.
4 We feel that while the sheep population has showed a decline in
5 that area, the harvest data shows that the local rural
6 residents are not taking a very high number of sheep. Almost
7 all of those taken are rams and that limiting this hunt to
8 elders who are 60 years of age or older and having a c&t for
9 sheep in that area should result in a relatively small increase
10 in the harvest.

11

12 That concludes the Staff analysis.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Robert. Any questions?

15

16 MR. LOHSE: I have a couple questions for Robert.

17

18 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, go ahead.

19

20 MR. LOHSE: This is only for communities that have a
21 c&t for Unit 11, right?

22

23 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

24

25 MR. LOHSE: And this would be on both Park and Preserve
26 land, correct?

27

28 MR. WILLIS: No, this is only on Preserve lands.

29

30 MR. LOHSE: This is only on Preserve land, okay.
31 Where does it say that and how do we know that from the way
32 this proposal's written?

33

34 MR. WILLIS: You've raised a point that we missed. I
35 think we have a Park Service representative there, and it's
36 getting a little late in the day and my mind's getting a little
37 fuzzy about what the regulations are about there. So if we
38 could call on Carl to talk about the regulations on Park lands.

39

40 MS. MASON: Carl's gone. It's Bob Gerhard or Janice
41 Meldrum.

42

43 MR. WILLIS: Either one would suffice.

44

45 MS. MELDRUM: It's not clear to me in the proposal that
46 it's only limited to Preserve lands, I don't know why it would
47 be. It's not explicit in the proposal that it is, so my
48 assumption is it's on both, Park and Preserve.

49

50 MR. WILLIS: I'm digging out the regulation as we speak

00115

1 here. I think Janice is probably right. I don't think that
2 sheep hunting is limited to Preserve lands, I think it's open
3 on both Park and Preserve.

4
5 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I know sheep hunting is open on Park
6 and Preserve land on the other hunts, I just was wondering if
7 this subsistence hunt basically was aimed at Preserve or Park
8 and Preserve. I would make sense to me that it would be -- I'd
9 like to have an understanding on it though before I voted on it
10 because it makes sense to me that it would be on both.

11
12 Just a second, Frank, I want to ask him one more
13 question. And I'm just wondering why we picked the age 60
14 years old. I think that we have -- in the State, don't we have
15 a program right now that it's at 62, isn't it?

16
17 MR. SELINGER: At 60.

18
19 MR. LOHSE: At 60, okay, that answers my question right
20 there, they get a lifetime hunting license.

21
22 MR. SELINGER: Um-hum.

23
24 MR. LOHSE: And so they already have a elders hunting
25 license at that point in time so that we know that they're 60.

26
27 MR. SELINGER: Right.

28
29 MR. LOHSE: Okay, that answers my question, I thought
30 it was 62.

31
32 MR. WILLIS: Ralph, I have the answer to your other
33 question, too. Hunting on Park lands is permitted, it's not
34 limited to Preserve lands only. What I was thinking of,
35 hunting on Park lands is limited to resident zone communities
36 and there may be a difference in the communities with c&t in
37 the communities which are designated as resident zone
38 communities.

39
40 MR. LOHSE: Would it be possible for us at this point
41 -- I mean we just had another one, the goat hunting is on Park
42 and Preserve land for residents who have a c&t from the
43 communities in the area around Unit 11, would it be to our
44 benefit if that's what we want to demonstrate in this proposal,
45 that we make that a part of the proposal because it might not
46 be understood?

47
48 MR. WILLIS: That might be wise. It seems to me that
49 I've asked this question of the Park Service once more and was
50 told that the resident zone communities include all the

00116

1 communities who have c&t in this area. And we had some Park
2 Service representatives there who are more familiar with it
3 than I am. I don't have the list in front of me of the zone
4 communities.

5
6 MR. GERHARD: I can tell you the resident zone
7 communities if you'd like?

8
9 MR. LOHSE: Yes, please. But the resident zone
10 communities don't necessarily mesh with the customary and
11 traditional finding communities, do they?

12
13 MS. MELDRUM: We can cross check on these.

14
15 MR. GERHARD: No, you're correct, that those are not
16 always identical. I believe there's 18 resident zone
17 communities. Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center,
18 Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake, Lower
19 Tonsina, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Slana, Tazlina, Tok,
20 Tonsina and Yakutat.

21
22 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I was just going to say that the only
23 place I see any mention of the Park and Preserve is that where
24 it says on Page 125, at about the middle of the page, Federal
25 public lands, Unit 11 are comprised of Wrangell-St. Elias
26 National Park, Preserve and a small portion of the Chugach
27 National Forest. Approximately 70 percent of the sheep are
28 found on lands of the Wrangell-St. Elias Preserve it says.
29 Maybe that's one of the reasons, I don't, but I don't think
30 that's total justification for leaving out the Park.

31
32 MR. LOHSE: No.

33
34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do you want to amend it?

35
36 MR. LOHSE: Yeah, I think so.

37
38 MS. MELDRUM: The other group of eligible people, other
39 than resident zone communities, would be people with 1344
40 permits in that unit. And we wouldn't have a list of those
41 now, but the resident zone communities, except Yakutat, have
42 c&t for all or portions of Unit 11 for sheep.

43
44 MR. LOHSE: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do we have a motion on the floor?

47
48 MR. LOHSE: No. We have comments coming up.

49
50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes, does somebody have a comment?

00117

1 MR. LOHSE: We should have ADF&G now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, other agency comments? Yes,
4 Jeff.

5

6 MR. SELINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
7 Board. Overall, the Department would oppose this proposal. We
8 feel that we already have it in place where we can have a proxy
9 hunter for people who have difficulties getting up and down the
10 mountains at that time and place, and that way people can
11 obtain their meat that way. The number of hunters has
12 increased, and I apologize, I don't have an exact percent
13 worked out right now, but if you're looking for the '90s, the
14 average number of hunters using the Park right now are between
15 -- the numbers vary between 300 and 390 -- or 298 and 397 for
16 the people hunting there. That compares back in the '80s when
17 the sheep populations were doing better, roughly anywhere from
18 260 to 204 hunters.

19

20 Mr. Willis was correct that our population or our
21 counts in '97 did increase over '96. We did go through a
22 string of bad winters in the '90s, that, probably coupled with
23 predation by wolves accounted for some of the lower counts, not
24 much recruitment getting into the populations in '90s. We
25 just, you know, basically feel that there's ample opportunity
26 with any sheep harvest available right now in GMU 11 for rural
27 residents and we do not think that it is necessary to have the
28 season extended.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: You mentioned a slight increase, under
31 justification on Page 129, I see where there's a relative
32 steady decline, it says.

33

34 MR. SELINGER: There was a steady decline basically.
35 If you'll bear with me here a little bit, I apologize for not
36 being better organized. I'll give you an example of our like a
37 sheep per hour counts. In 1990 it was 109, then it dropped to
38 77, 84, 102, 79, and then this year it's back up to 110. That
39 compares to the early and mid-80s when sheep per hour numbers
40 were 169, 188 and 193. So overall, sheep numbers are down in
41 that area compared to historical past levels. And you know,
42 potentially we'll be doing some more surveys in this year to
43 see if -- for example, if you look at 1994 when our sheep per
44 hour was 84, it jumped up to 102 in '95 but then it dropped
45 back down to 79 in '96. So this increase we saw last year
46 could be only temporary.

47

48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

49

50 MR. SELINGER: Thank you.

00118

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any other agency comment?
2 Any public testimony? Written comments?

3
4 MS. EAKON: The recommendation of Eastern Interior
5 Regional Council is to support the Staff recommendation. The
6 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission supports the
7 proposal as written. And Mike Sallee of Ketchikan said it
8 sounds like a good idea, but if there's a loophole, somebody
9 will likely find it and abuse it.

10
11 End of comments.

12
13 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Did you have a question or comment,
14 Ralph?

15
16 MR. LOHSE: I was just going to comment back to the
17 Fish and Game, sorry that I said Fish and Game instead of your
18 name.

19
20 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Jeff.

21
22 MR. LOHSE: Jeff, one of the comments that was made in
23 there was that there's already opportunity for proxy hunts so
24 that the elders can get their meat. And I think that this
25 whole thing wasn't -- the whole idea behind this, one of the
26 things it says there, there is no designated hunters, the whole
27 -- the whole idea behind this concept was basically to give
28 those elders the opportunity to go out hunting. How high the
29 success ratio's going to be probably is not going to be very
30 high, but basically it takes those elders, those older people
31 and says, in recognition of the fact that you've got something
32 to pass on and something to teach somebody, we'll give you an
33 opportunity, we'll give you time of the year, when without
34 competition, you can go out and you can do that. I don't think
35 we're looking at -- I agree with Sallee, if there's a loophole,
36 somebody's going to find it. You know, I personally don't
37 think it's going to increase the take that much, but it is --
38 but I think that if it does, that can be adjusted at the other
39 end.

40
41 I mean I think this is a worthwhile idea. The idea
42 that -- and the proxy part is the part that has had, let's say,
43 as many -- the proxy part has made as many loopholes and has
44 had as many people taking advantages of it of anything that's
45 ever been developed. Because that gives a person who is an
46 aggressive hunter, all he's got to do is go around and look for
47 people to get proxies and he goes and I've seen that. I mean
48 I've seen that where we live down there. This actually says
49 that the elder is going to be out there. And you know, a lot
50 of them aren't going to go out there, but just the fact that

00119

1 they know that they could if they wanted to is going to make a
2 lot of difference.

3

4 And so I don't see where the two correspond with each
5 other. I mean the fact that they have the ability to get a
6 proxy and go out and have their meat brought to them is not the
7 same as saying, in recognition of your age and your experience
8 and everything, here's an opportunity to go show somebody else
9 how to do it. There will be people who will take advantage of
10 it. There will be younger people that will end up going with
11 an older person and end up doing it for the older person, but
12 you can't -- you still can't take away that opportunity, I
13 don't think. That's my own personal opinion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Any other comments? Public testimony?
16 Yes, Frank.

17

18 MR. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just wanted to comment on --
19 you know there seemed to be a question on whether it would
20 apply to Park lands as well as Preserve. And Robert Marshall
21 is a member of the SRC and it seems to me that at one of those
22 SRC meetings that I'm almost positive he was referring to
23 applying for both Park and Preserve lands as far as the hunting
24 goes.

25

26 And one other item I just wanted to touch one was, you
27 know, the proxy hunting, to my knowledge, you know, proxy
28 hunting is in effect for moose and caribou, but I don't think
29 there's any provision so far for sheep. So you know, this
30 elder hunt, I think would be an ideal situation to address
31 their concerns, you know, for a late season hunt like that.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Not too much said about -- this is
36 under permit, right?

37

38 MR. LOHSE: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there going to be a proposed limited
41 number of permits, does anybody know?

42

43 MR. LOHSE: It's registration not permit.

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, registration. Well, then explain
46 that part to me then, how that works?

47

48 MR. LOHSE: Registration means that anybody over 60
49 years old can register.....

50

00120

1 CHAIRMAN EWAN: To get a permit?

2

3 MR. LOHSE:if they set a quota of animals, they
4 can close it off when the quota is taken, if there's a
5 biological problem.

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. That's the part I wanted
8 somebody to talk about a little bit. There will be some kind
9 of safeguard there?

10

11 MR. BOYD: I think in general there's always the
12 opportunity to close any hunt for, you know, for a conservation
13 reason. I think as a matter of convenience and some hunts
14 where we want to manage them fairly closely, we set a quota.
15 But that doesn't necessarily mean we have to -- but still if
16 we're monitoring the hunt, we see there's a problem, it can be
17 closed by emergency order.

18

19 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, thank you. Anymore public
20 comment? If not, we're down to Regional Council recommendation
21 and justification. To tell you the truth, I totally support
22 this. Since it's been proposed, the more I thought about it,
23 as I get older I guess, I think there's a lot of merit to this
24 and I totally support it.

25

26 MR. LOHSE: Let's not say anything about that, as we
27 all get grayer we have a tendency.....

28

29 MR. BOYD: I didn't think there was anybody on the
30 Council over 60.

31

32 (Off record comment)

33

34 MR. LOHSE: No, does anybody in the Council have to bow
35 out for, what do they call it, conflict of interest because
36 you're over 60. I'd like to make a motion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

39

40 MR. LOHSE: I'd like to address some of the concerns
41 that have come up just to make sure that they're in here. And
42 I'd like to propose Proposal 28 and to have it read, one sheep
43 by Federal registration permit on Preserve and Park land, only
44 by persons 60 years of age or older who live in the resident
45 zone or have customary and traditional finding, and definitely
46 no designated hunter permits will be issued for this hunt.

47

48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: The only thing in your -- just to make
49 sure that I understand your motion, that your change from the
50 proposal is to add the.....

00121

1 MR. LOHSE: The two things I added was to clarify that
2 it's intended for both Park and Preserve.

3
4 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Um-hum.

5
6 MR. LOHSE: And that the person 60 years of age or
7 older will either have customary and traditional or be a
8 resident of a resident zone community.

9
10 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. Is there a second to the motion?

11
12 MR. GERHARD: It appears that you're excluding Forest
13 lands and other Federal public lands.....

14
15 MR. LOHSE: There aren't any in Unit 11.

16
17 MS. MELDRUM: Yeah, there's Forest Service lands.

18
19 MR. GERHARD: Yeah.

20
21 MR. LOHSE: Oh, okay, I will -- well, let's just change
22 it then, one sheep by Federal registration on all Federal lands
23 in Unit 11.

24
25 MR. GERHARD: In Unit 11, yeah.

26
27 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. I don't think we have sheep down
28 there in that section of the Forest lands though. In fact, I
29 know we don't.

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second to the motion?

32
33 MR. F. JOHN: I second it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. Any
36 further discussion on the motion?

37
38 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, question's called for. All in
41 favor of adopting Proposal 28 as amended say aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Motion is carried. Do we want to do
50 one more or head home or.....

00122

1 MR. LOHSE: What time is it?

2

3 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Do we got time for one more?

4

5 MS. EAKON: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, let's go to the next one then.

8

9 MR. LOHSE: Proposal 29 is deferred.

10

11 MS. EAKON: Proposal 29 was deferred by the National
12 Park Service. Proposals 30 and 31 would revise customary and
13 traditional use determinations for black bear in Unit 13.
14 Rachel is the lead.

15

16 MS. MASON: Thank you. Proposal 30 was submitted by
17 the Copper River Native Association. It requests a positive
18 c&t determination for black bear in Unit 13 for the residents
19 of Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona,
20 Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and Tazlina. Proposal 31 was submitted
21 by the Middle Nenana River Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
22 And it requests a positive c&t determination for black bear in
23 Unit 13 for the residents of Unit 13 and in Unit 20(A) and
24 20(C) for all residents between Mile Post 216 and 309 of the
25 Parks Highway. And the two proposals have been combined for
26 analysis.

27

28 Currently there's no c&t determination in Unit 13 for
29 black bear. There's also no determination in Unit 20(A) or
30 Unit 20(C). Again, CRNA did not intend Proposal 30 to be
31 restrictive. They only wanted to speak for the Ahtna
32 communities and don't see to limit it only to those
33 communities. It's clear that the area -- in the areas that are
34 effected by this proposals, black bear has been an important
35 source of meat and also the fat, fur, teeth and claws have been
36 used. As with the other black bear proposal, the CRNA proposal
37 states that the Ahtna people generally enjoyed black bear meat
38 almost as much as they like moose meat. Non-Native in this
39 area have also used black bear for food every since they've
40 arrived in the area. The indigenous people in the area
41 include Ahtna, Athabaskans from the Copper River area and Upper
42 Tanana Athabaskans who lived in what is now Units 12 and 2-0(D)
43 and the area effected by this proposal even includes some
44 Dena'ina Athabaskans. All of those groups use black bear and
45 it was an important resource, and has traditionally been one.

46

47 Harvest studies from 1982 and '87 show that although
48 black bear harvests were fairly low, the Ahtna communities of
49 Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and
50 Tazlina all reported at least some harvest and use of black

00123

1 bear in either '82 or '87. A couple of the communities
2 included in CRNA's request, Chitina and Copper Center did not
3 report any black bear harvest during those years. Glennallen
4 and Tonsina residents though did report small harvests and the
5 highest per capita harvest in the Copper River Basin were 5.5
6 pounds per person in Kenny Lake in 1987 and also Mentasta Lake
7 also reported 4.5 pounds per person in '82. In the Unit 20
8 communities in the proposal area, their harvest studies have
9 been conducted in Anderson, Dot Lake, Healy and McKinley
10 Village. And all of those communities show some harvest of
11 black bear in either '82 or '87. And of those communities,
12 Anderson residents reported the highest harvest. The pre
13 capita harvest of these Parks Highway communities and Upper
14 Tanana communities were low compared to the black bear harvest
15 in other Interior communities.

16
17 In McKinley Village, there are four individuals who
18 have subsistence use permits for Denali National Park, and some
19 of them have hunted black bear in the Park in Unit 13(E).
20 However, McKinley Village is not a resident zone community for
21 the Park, so only those individuals that do have subsistence
22 use permits would be able to use Park lands for subsistence.

23
24 As for the use areas, as you've heard with other
25 proposals, in the areas that are of concern here, contemporary
26 land and resource use is intimately tied to the traditional use
27 patterns. People have historical ties to certain areas and
28 while many people use the areas that are close to their homes
29 for subsistence purposes, they also tend to have a considerable
30 range in which they harvest. And it's also effected by the
31 relatives that they have in other communities. The Upper
32 Tanana black bear areas just like the Copper River areas tended
33 to be the same ones that were generally used for moose hunting
34 and caribou hunting. As for the Parks Highway area, the
35 Division of Subsistence has mapped hunting areas for Anderson,
36 Healy and McKinley Park Village and these were in 1987 and all
37 the bear hunting areas reported by those communities were in
38 Units 20(A) or 20(C), except for a very small corner of Unit
39 20(B) that was used by Anderson.

40
41 The Staff conclusion was to adopt Proposal 31 with
42 modification. And that would give a positive c&t for black
43 bear in Unit 13 to the residents of Unit 13, but it would
44 reject that portion of the proposal that refers to c&t for
45 black bear in Units 20(A) and 20(C). That modification would
46 render Proposal 30 moot. Since the eight villages that are
47 requested in that are all in Unit 13. And a further suggested
48 modification would add a positive c&t in Denali National Park
49 in Unit 13 just for those individuals having subsistence use
50 permits in the Park.

00124

1 The justification, as I said, black bears have been
2 traditionally used throughout this area by the residents of it.
3 There is an uneven record of harvest among the communities that
4 were included in the request, but there have been established
5 -- it's been established that there are kinship and cultural
6 connections between those villages to support a positive c&t
7 for all of them. And then the residents of the three
8 communities, Glennallen, Tonsina and Kenny Lake, not included
9 in the request, did report modest harvest of black bear.

10
11 And in regard to use areas, some of the communities
12 that were included in the request harvested most of or a
13 significant proportion of their black bear harvest in Unit 13.
14 But none of the Copper River Basin communities showed any
15 harvest in Units 20(A) or 20(C). The communities along the
16 Parks Highway reported some small harvest of black bear, but
17 their use of a smaller variety of the species than most of the
18 Athabaskan communities that were named in the request suggested
19 their use did not represent traditional subsistence harvesting.
20 And this was also suggested by the generally smaller per capita
21 harvest of subsistence foods.

22
23 The modification to add a positive c&t in Denali
24 National Park in Unit 13 for those individuals who have
25 subsistence use permits in the Park would allow those people in
26 Mckinley Village, which is not a resident zone community to use
27 National Park lands for harvest of black bear.

28
29 So that concludes the presentation.

30
31 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any other agency comments?
32 If not, we'll go on to written comments.

33
34 MS. EAKON: The recommendation of Eastern Interior
35 Regional Council is to support Proposal 30 with modification to
36 include adjacent subunits in Region 9, defer Proposal 31
37 pending clarification with proponent on their request. The
38 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission recommends deferral and
39 recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board make no customary
40 and traditional findings for black bear in Unit 13 since there
41 is no biological or subsistence need to do so at this time.
42 However, if the Board decides to make a finding, the Commission
43 recommends that Cantwell residents should have a customary and
44 traditional use determination for use of black bear. In
45 addition, the individuals living within the Parks Highway area
46 from Mile Post 216 through 239 with subsistence use permits for
47 Denali National Park should also have customary and traditional
48 use for black bear on Park lands in Unit 13(E).

49
50 The Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory

00125

1 Committee supports with amendment to have a positive c&t for
2 Units 11, 12, 13 (A) through (D) and residents of Chickaloon,
3 Dot Lake and Healy Lake, which include Wrangell-St.Elias
4 National Park resident zone communities. The Wrangell-St.
5 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission supports the proposal as
6 written. This was regarding Proposal 30. For Proposal 31,
7 Wrangell-St. Elias Commission took no action.

8

9 And that concludes the written comments.

10

11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: And that was from who?

12

13 MS. EAKON: This very last one, the Wrangell-St. Elias
14 Subsistence Resource Commission.

15

16 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, okay. We're down to public
17 comment. Yes, Frank.

18

19 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Here again, the
20 Upper Tanana felt that you know because a group of people may
21 want to establish a c&t on a species, it shouldn't
22 automatically exclude other people that have used the resource
23 in the past or could qualify in the future. And this is why we
24 proposed that all the qualifying subsistence users be included
25 in getting a positive c&t for black bear in this unit.

26

27 You know, I suppose if the Council wants Upper Tanana
28 to go and research all the data and find out, you know, how
29 many bears were harvested and so on and so forth that, you
30 know, we could do that. But you know, Unit 12 and 13 come
31 really close together there, especially in the eastern portion
32 of Unit 13 and this southwestern portion of 12. And we just
33 don't feel that we should be excluded from any c&t usage in
34 that portion of 13.

35

36 That's all I have to comment on.

37

38 CHAIRMAN EWAN: So you're speaking in favor of the
39 conclusions by the Staff to adopt Proposal 31?

40

41 MR. ENTSMINGER: Well, we're in support of the proposal
42 that would include as many subsistence users as possible.

43

44 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

45

46 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you. Any more public comment? If
49 not, we'll go to Regional Council recommendation. I know that
50 it's getting late in the day but I believe this will be our

00126

1 last proposal.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Um-hum.

4

5 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I know that everybody's getting tired.

6 But I would like to finish this one and then break. Does

7 anybody want to make a motion?

8

9 MR. LOHSE: Can I ask a question?

10

11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Yes.

12

13 MR. LOHSE: Rachel, if I understood right, Staff's
14 recommendation was for Unit 13, rural residents of Unit 13 to
15 have a positive c&t for Unit 13?

16

17 MS. MASON: Yes.

18

19 MR. LOHSE: And to defer on the residents from Unit 20?

20

21 MS. MASON: Actually to reject that portion that deals
22 with Unit 20.

23

24 MR. LOHSE: But it doesn't deal at all with Unit 12 or
25 anything like that?

26

27 MS. MASON: No.

28

29 MR. LOHSE: It basically deals with just Unit 20 and
30 Unit 13?

31

32 MS. MASON: That's correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I'll entertain a motion one way or the
35 other to get things rolling, somebody's got to make a motion.

36 Yes, Ralph.

37

38 MR. LOHSE: Roy, at this point in time I don't feel
39 like I have enough information to deal with Unit 20(A) and (C).
40 And though I recognize there's probably people from Unit 12 or
41 that area up there that have made use of bear in Unit 13, none
42 of that's been presented to us either. I'd like to propose
43 that we find for customary and traditional for rural residents
44 of Unit 13 for black bear in Unit 13.

45

46 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Is there a second?

47

48 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN EWAN: There's a motion and second. Further

00127

1 discussion on the motion. I did hear something about Cantwell
2 being mentioned here. Are they talking about hunting in just
3 that area, their area or we're not talking about way over in
4 this.....

5
6 MR. DEMENTI: Just in the Cantwell area.

7
8 MS. MASON: Cantwell is part of the request for Unit
9 13.

10
11 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay.

12
13 MR. DEMENTI: Since they use the Denali National Park,
14 Cantwell residents only in that portion.

15
16 MR. F. JOHN: I still don't understand. Cantwell and
17 that area there, is it for the Park over there or the Park over
18 there.

19
20 MR. DEMENTI: Denali Park.

21
22 MR. F. JOHN: In Denali Park.

23
24 MS. MASON: The request by CRNA would allow Cantwell,
25 which is part of Unit 13 to have a c&t for black bear in Unit
26 13. There's not a mention of the Park in that although it
27 would have to be on Federal land.

28
29 MR. DEMENTI: I think the residents of Cantwell, if the
30 opportunity to -- if the black bear comes right out to them in
31 this area, maybe they do. But I think most people want to hunt
32 in the Cantwell area. I don't think they'd come all the way
33 over here to hunt black bear.

34
35 MR. F. JOHN: That's what I thought.

36
37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, Ralph.

38
39 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chair, other than just including
40 residents of Unit 13 in Unit 13, the only other option I would
41 see would be to divide Unit 13 up by area which is (A), (B),
42 (C) and (D), which could also be done. I don't know if it's
43 justified in doing that at this point in time. We're not
44 dealing with a large number of people or a large future number
45 of people right there. I'll defer that to you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN EWAN: I don't think that there's concern
48 about Cantwell or any other community. I think we were just
49 trying to clarify, you said dealing with 11 in the other
50 proposals and I think that's why I said, in my mind, Unit 11,

00128

1 but we're talking about Unit 13. I just wanted to clear it up.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: We're just talking about Unit 13.

4

5 MR. LOHSE: Just Unit 13.

6

7 MS. MASON: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Does somebody want to make a motion
10 then and we'll move on.

11

12 MR. LOHSE: I already did.

13

14 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Oh, okay. Do you want to read your
15 motion again.

16

17 MR. LOHSE: I propose that we accept customary and
18 traditional for black bear in Unit 13 by the rural residents of
19 Unit 13.

20

21 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, and there was a second?

22

23 MR. DEMENTI: There was a second, I seconded it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, are you ready to vote on the
26 motion?

27

28 MR. DEMENTI: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Question's called for. All in favor
31 say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Opposed by the same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, the motion is carried. Proposal
40 30 is adopted with modification.

41

42 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, can I ask Helga a
43 question just to clarify something for Frank and for myself?

44

45 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Go ahead.

46

47 MR. LOHSE: When we find a customary -- okay, we found
48 a customary and traditional use pattern for Unit 13 for rural
49 residents of Unit 13. That basically leaves everybody out
50 until such time as somebody else puts a proposal in that we

00129

1 find for a customary and traditional for them to be added to
2 it. I mean that's basically what we've done. If Unit 12 can
3 show customary and traditional use and put a proposal in, we
4 can at some future time add Unit 12 or Unit 11 or something
5 like that?

6
7 MS. EAKON: Yes.

8
9 MR. LOHSE: But currently what we have now is we have a
10 customary and traditional finding for Unit 13 for residents of
11 Unit 13, therefore there's no customary and traditional for
12 anyone else until such time as they put a proposal in and
13 submit evidence to the effect that we include them in customary
14 and traditional?

15
16 MS. EAKON: Right.

17
18 MR. LOHSE: But it doesn't close the door, but it
19 closes the door?

20
21 MS. EAKON: Right.

22
23 MR. LOHSE: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay. I think we're all in favor of
26 recessing until to tomorrow morning, 8:00 o'clock. Anybody
27 want to make any information comments before we leave?

28
29 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted
30 to state that I've only got today available so I won't be able
31 to attend the rest of the meeting. But I think most of the
32 proposals that Upper Tanana wished to comment on, we have the
33 written comments in the book. So I just won't be here to, you
34 know, address them personally. I certainly thank you for the
35 opportunity to be here and speak my peace.

36
37 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Thank you, Frank.

38
39 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you very much.

40
41 CHAIRMAN EWAN: Okay, we'll recess until tomorrow
42 morning, 8:00 o'clock.

43
44 (Hearing recessed - 5:51 p.m.)

00130

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Reporter and Owner of Computer Matrix, do
hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 129
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Southcentral
Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Volume I,
meeting taken electronically by myself on the 18th day of
March, 1998, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the
Caribou Inn, Glennallen, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed under my
direction by and reduced to print;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of March,
1998.

JOSEPH P. KOLASINSKI
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/00